

QUARTERLY · SPRING 2023

VISTA SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Enhancing, Enriching, and Extending the Quality of Education Provided to Vista School

Poetry in the Park

by Sara Martinez

On March 6th, I had the honor of taking four Vista ninth graders (selected by a poetry contest at Vista) to Zion National Park for "Poetry in the Park." This is an annual event where students participate in a writing workshop alongside other writers and poets. They read poetry, they go on a hike, they write poetry, and they share poetry with an enthusiastic audience. This was my second year doing this, and I always feel so lucky to be able to do this for a job.

This is an exciting opportunity that our students enjoy. Zion is one of the most beautiful places in the entire country, maybe the entire world, with visitors from all over and languages from every continent being spoken on its trails. Living in Southern Utah, it would be a shame not to borrow inspiration from such a rich source. Participating students get to immerse themselves in a gorgeous landscape, run their hands through the plants, get their feet muddy, smell the rain and the river moistening the air. A few of the kids who have gone on this trip even mention that it's their first or second time ever going to Zion. The kids get to transfer that immersion and love of nature into poetry they can keep for their whole lives.

My favorite part of the experience is that the kids come away from this trip feeling like writers. They come away with a sense of pride and identity. They are poets. They are talented. They have messages worth sharing.

As an eighth and ninth grade language arts teacher, I know I must help our kids be test-ready and master the common-core; every year I sneak in poetry as well. My eighth graders get a whole unit of writing poetry. Poetry units are often dismissed because kids are not heavily tested on the content in high-stakes tests, but I can't resist giving my students the opportunity to become poets. Kids who struggle with writing take to it. Kids who struggle with English as a second language can engage. Kids who struggle with mental health (which is so many middle-schoolers) find their voice in a way they never knew they could.

I am honored to teach these wonderful kids, with their big ideas, and giant spirits. I love that these kids come away connected to poetry. This poetry trip is so important to me and to these kids, who will likely remember that day of writing poetry for the rest of their lives.

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Poetry Spotlight

Blueberries
By Katelyn Borrowman

small blue berries
you see them as you're hiking
small blue berries
the perfect throwing stars
small blue berries
creates havoc among the trail
small blue berries
you chuck them at your friends
small blue berries
your rain of the trail begins

Forevermore
By Julia Campbell

Water- coming
Society- crashing
Wildlife- fleeing
Earth- shaking
Doom- impending

World- ending
and People?
sleeping Forevermore



Poetry in the Park



Lion King, Jr.



Math 10x Fair

High School Musical Jr. Cast, photo courtesy of Porter Portrait Studio



Upcoming Events

- Apr. 27-29 Spring Dance Concert, 7 p.m.
- May 1 Dance Solo Showcase, 6 p.m.
- May 2 Orchestra Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 3 Vista/UAA Guitar Piano Recital, 6:30 p.m.
- May 4 Band Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 5 6-9 Intermediate Orchestra Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 8 MDT Showcase, 6 p.m.
- May 9 Songwriting Showcase, 6 p.m.
- May 10 VRS Showcase, 6 p.m.
- May 12 Concert Choir, 4-5 Choir Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 15 Youth Symphony Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 16 Advanced Guitar Recital, 6 p.m.
- May 17 9th Recognition Night, 6 p.m.
- May 18 Theater Company Showcase, 6 p.m.
- May 19 Technology Awards, 6 p.m.
- May 20 4-5 Orchestra Concert, 6 p.m.
- May 22 Piano Recitals, 6 p.m.
- May 23 9th Promotion Ceremony, 6 p.m.
- May 25 Last Day of School



Vista School Foundation QR code



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The Vista School Foundation seeks to enhance, enrich, and extend the quality of education provided to the Vista community.



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