

Dear Families:

This year we're adding something new to our morning announcements: POETRY! In a few minutes a day, we hope to use poems to support our school culture of kindness, safety, respect, and gratitude.

The resource that we will be drawing inspiration from is *GREAT Morning! Poems for School Leaders to Read Aloud* by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong (Pomelo Books). Ask our librarian if you can borrow a copy of this book from our library—and continue the discussions at home. Here is a selection from that book to encourage family reading at any time of day, any day of the week.

At Our House

by Virginia Euwer Wolff

Dad reads to me while he makes me lunch,
Mom reads to me in bed.
My little brother wants to hear
every word that we have read.

Grandpa's learning how to read,
Grandma hums along.
Books speak right up in our house,
and words turn into song.

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GREAT Morning! Poems for School Leaders to Read Aloud
by Sylvia Vardell & Janet Wong (Pomelo Books)

Very truly yours,

SHARING POETRY AT HOME

Here are a dozen simple ways for families to include poetry in the daily routine at home, from sharing a poem at breakfast to recording a favorite poem for a friend or family member far away.

Start
the day
with a
poem at
breakfast

Add
a poem
to a lunch
bag

Keep
a book of
poetry in the
car and take
turns reading
out loud

Look for
poems on
your cell
phone or
tablet when
waiting

Celebrate
each
birthday
with a
special
poem

Write
a poem
on the
sidewalk
with
chalk

Listen
online
to poems
performed by
the poets

Write
a poem
together as a
gift for a
special
occasion

Record
a poem to
share with a
friend or family
member far
away

Listen to songs
on the radio and
talk about how
they are alike or
different from
poetry

Just for
fun, sing a
silly poem
together

End
the day
with a poem
at dinner
or at
bedtime