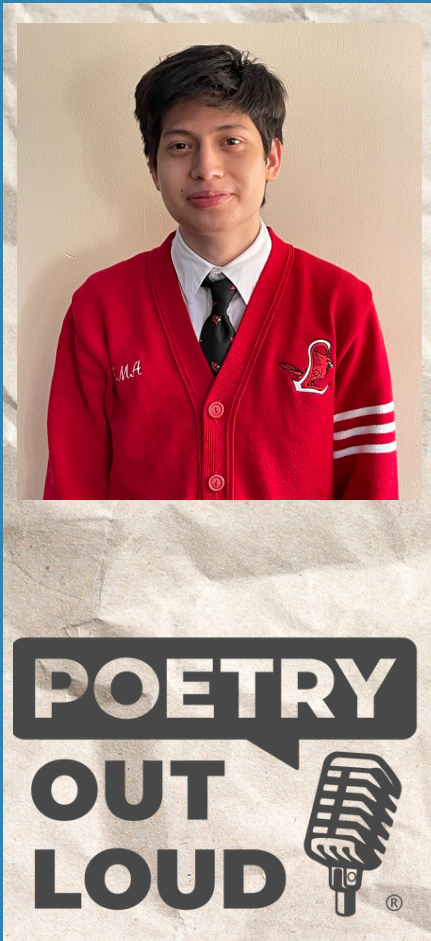


The Cardinal



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POETRY MONTH



National Poetry Month acknowledges not only poetry but literature. This edition focuses on the history of Poetry Month as well as selected Lasallian poetry competition winners.



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HISTORY OF POETRY MONTH

By Joshua A Rocamora

National Poetry Month was established in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets to celebrate the importance of poetry in the world.

The Academy of American Poets was inspired by the success of Women's History Month and Black History Month. To highlight the extraordinary legacy and impact of poets and the richness of poetry, the month of April became known as Poetry Month.

April was determined to be the best time for celebrating poetry through a collaborative effort with poets, booksellers, librarians, and teachers. Although April is dedicated to poetry, the Academy of American Poets encourages the year-round lifelong reading of poetry.

poets.org

"Without poetry, we lose our way."

—Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate & Academy of American Poets Chancellor (2019–)

During the early launch of National Poetry Month, the Academy of American Poets hosted a series of events to encourage the program among Americans. Events such as poetry readings, free writing workshops, art installations, and local festivals took place in most cities across the nation.

William Wadsworth, executive director of the Academy of American Poets from 1989 to 2001, said "We'd like it to be a time when a large sector of the American public will realize that we have an active, thriving literary culture in this country and that poets are an important part of that culture."

La Salle Academy recognizes the importance of poetry by engaging in lengthy poetry units and organizes a Poetry Out Loud event each year.

The following are some favorite poems that students enjoy in their English classes.

"After the Disaster" by Abigail Deutsch

"Always Something More Beautiful" by Stephen Dunn

"Apollo" by Elizabeth Alexander

"Ballad for Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963" by J. Patrick Lewis

"Black Boys Play the Classics" by Toi Derricotte

"Burning the Old Year" by Naomi Shihab Nye

"Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Thayer

"(The) City's Love" by Claude McKay

"Complainers" by Rudy Francisco



POETRY IN THE CLASSROOM

By Christopher Hurley

Poetry in the classroom has had a long background of helping students improve their writing skills, academic performance, confidence, and social skills. Poetry helps students to gain important skills needed for college-level writing. It helps students connect with ideas and also provide a way to deepen comprehension, develop understanding and display empathy. One of the most powerful things poetry does is help students refocus and possibly transform their point of view. In addition, poetry in the classroom gives students a way to reflect and be in the world at the same time.

The Cardinal used the attached list from the English teachers at La Salle Academy to create a poetry madness bracket.

"After the Disaster" – Abigail Deutsch
"Always Something More Beautiful" - Stephen Dunn
"Apollo" by Elizabeth Alexander
"Ballad for Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963" by J. Patrick Lewis
"Black Boys Play the Classics" – Toi Derricotte
"Burning the Old Year" – Naomi Shihab Nye
"Casey at the Bat" – Ernest Thayer
"(The) City's Love" – Claude McKay
"Complainers" – Rudy Francisco
"Discrimination" – Kenneth Rexroth
"Do Not Go Gently into That Good Night" - Dylan Thomas
"Dreams" – Langston Hughes
"Epitaph" – Katherine Philips
"Harlem" – Langston Hughes
"How do I Love Thee?" – Elizabeth Barrett Browning
"The Laughing Heart" – Charles Bukowski
"(The) Man He Killed" – Thomas Hardy
"The Miracle of Morning" – Amanda Gorman
"Mother to Son" – Langston Hughes
"Nothing Gold Can Stay" – Robert Frost
"One Art" – Elizabeth Bishop
"The Raven" – Edgar Allan Poe
"(The) Road Not Taken" – Robert Frost
"The Rose That Grew from the Concrete" – Tupac Shaker
"Simon the Cyrenian Speaks" – Countee Cullen
"The Star" – Ann Taylor and Jane Taylor
"Still I Rise" – Maya Angelou
"The Summer Day" – Mary Oliver
"Tattoo" - Ted Kooser
"Trees" – Joyce Kilmer
"The Tyger" – William Blake



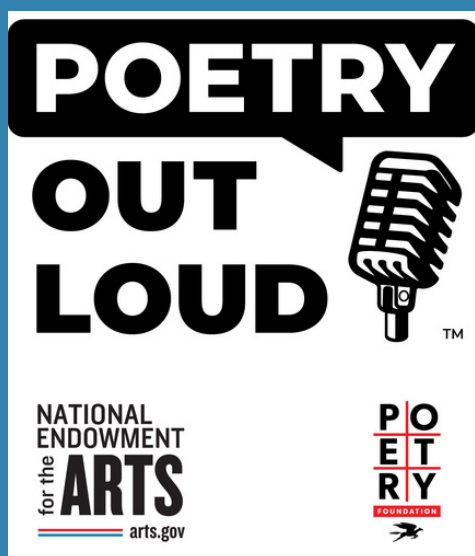
POETRY OUT LOUD

By Alejandro Alvarez Luna

Poetry Out Loud competition usually takes place during April, Poetry History Month. English teachers prepare students for the competition as early as February each year.

Students select poems from the Poetry Out Loud Anthology, write literary essays, then recite their poems from memory in their English classes. Two students from each English class throughout the school move on to the school competition. On Poetry Out Loud evening, three judges evaluate approximately 25 students' performances based on their voice and articulation, evidence of understanding, and accuracy. The winners of the school competition move on to the regional, then the state competition. The final competition which is the national competition is held in Washington, DC, where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends are distributed.

Poetry Out Loud competition is held in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation. It is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry— both classic and contemporary— through memorization, performance, and competition. Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has reached more than 3.6 million students and 55,000 teachers from 14,000 schools nationwide.



<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/>

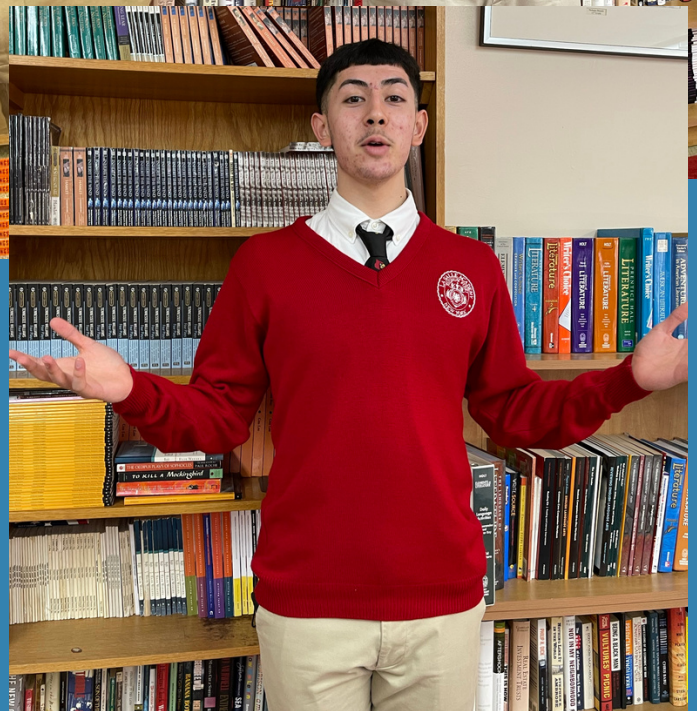
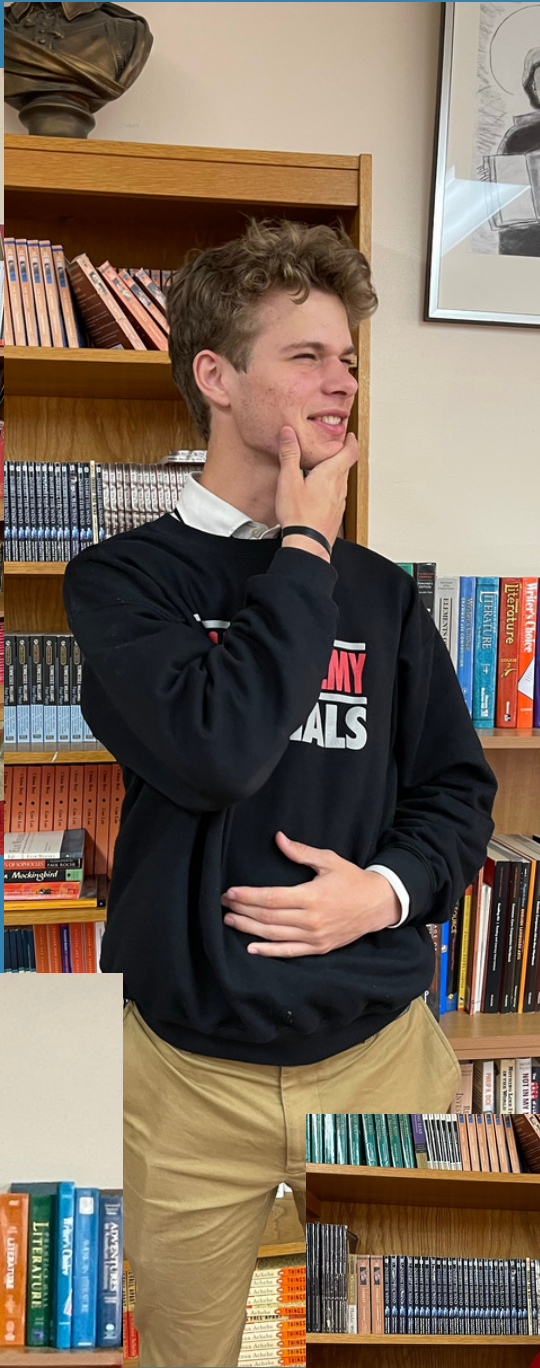
Poetry Out Loud Participants

1. Bryant Doyle – “Awaking in New York”
2. Tanis Martinez – “Beautiful Wreckage”
3. Ian Anton – “Bel Canto”
4. Danny Davila – “Brother, I’ve Seen Some”
5. Daniel Garcia – “Discrimination”
6. Neo Villorrente – “Fever”
7. Taylor Perlmutter – “Hedgehog”
8. Nasir Sprolling – “History Lesson”
9. Jayden Jones – “I Look at the World”
10. Carlos Lorenzo – “The Kiss”
11. Louis-Etienne Charpentier – “Let the Light Enter”
12. Jack Walsh – “Mad Song”
13. Jared Rosado – “The New Decalogue”
14. Kevin Ramirez – “Prints”
15. Emmanuel Power – “The Road Not Taken”
16. Jerome Jose – “Sci-Fi”
17. Nico Calder – “Self-Inquiry Before the Job Interview”
18. Anthony Rodriguez – “Totem Pole”
19. Raymond Figueroa – “Ways of Talking”
20. Giovanni Gonzalez – “What to Say upon Being Asked to Be Friends”



POETRY OUT LOUD @ LA SALLE

By Alejandro Alvarez Luna





POETRY WINNERS

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) selected James Silverio (2023), and Ariyan Rejaee (2023) as winners for their outstanding poems at the 36th annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. According to the judges, Silverio's and Rejaee's poems were beautifully executed. Their poems show a genuine understanding of, and appreciation for, New York's water resources.

The judges received more than 1,500 exceptional pieces of artwork and poetry from watershed and New York City students this year; this made their selection process very challenging.

James Silverio received kudos for his poem, "Flow of Life."

THE FLOW OF LIFE

By James Silverio

Water is a gift
Which is very **justifiable**
And whenever we see it polluted
That is flat out **unacceptable**.

Water gives life
Whether you are a giant or somewhat lean
To just throw trash
Is just so damn **mean**.

Whether it be in a river
Or a gigantic ocean
It is time that we finally
Put a plan into **motion**.

To save our city
Is not an easy task
But at the very least.
I have to reach out and **ask**.

Take care of our world
For if you only **knew**
All of the damage that has been done
To the planet full of blue.



INTERVIEW WITH A WATER POETRY WINNER, JAMES SILVERIO



JAMES SILVERIO

Q. With whom do you live?
Do you have any siblings?
Where do you live?

A. I live with my mother and a younger brother in Manhattan.

Q. What is your grade level?

A. I am a Grade 11 student.

Q. What are your favorite subjects?

A. I love History and Math.

Q. Were you surprised when you were selected as a winner?

A. I was very surprised. I thought there were others who deserved to win more than I did.

Q. Do you like to read poems?

A. I love reading and writing poems.

Q. What appealing features do you enjoy in poems?

A. I enjoy being able to understand the emotions and feelings put into poems.

Q. What is your favorite poem?

A. My favorite poem is "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe

Q. Would you be writing any more poems in the future?

A. Probably, because I enjoy writing them as a hobby.

Q. Should La Salle do more poetry in our English classes?

A. Absolutely

Q. What college do you hope to attend?

A. I would like to attend SUNY Plattsburgh.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. I play ice hockey for the Jersey Colts. I am also a boy scout, hoping to achieve the distinction of eagle scouts.

Q. What are your career aspirations?

A. I hope that I can become a professional hockey player or a sports historian/journalist.



THE PATH IT TAKES

By Ariyan Rejaee

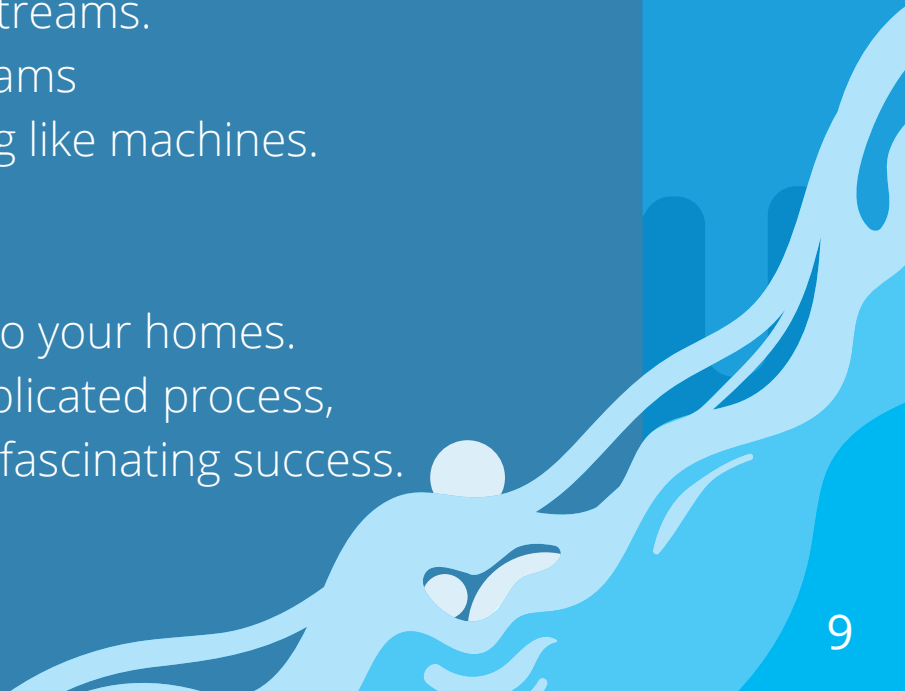
Many take for granted the blessing from our planet
Rushing through our rivers, eroding at the granite
Flowing from our faucets, whenever we demand it
But no one seems to care about the path it takes to find us.

Falling from the clouds when they become encumbered
The drops of rain, billions in numbers.
Its path illuminated with bright flashes of thunder,
Turning to snow when the temperature goes under.

Beginning its journey, the water flows
Through the ground, under your toes.
We use to wonder but now we know
Exactly where the water goes.

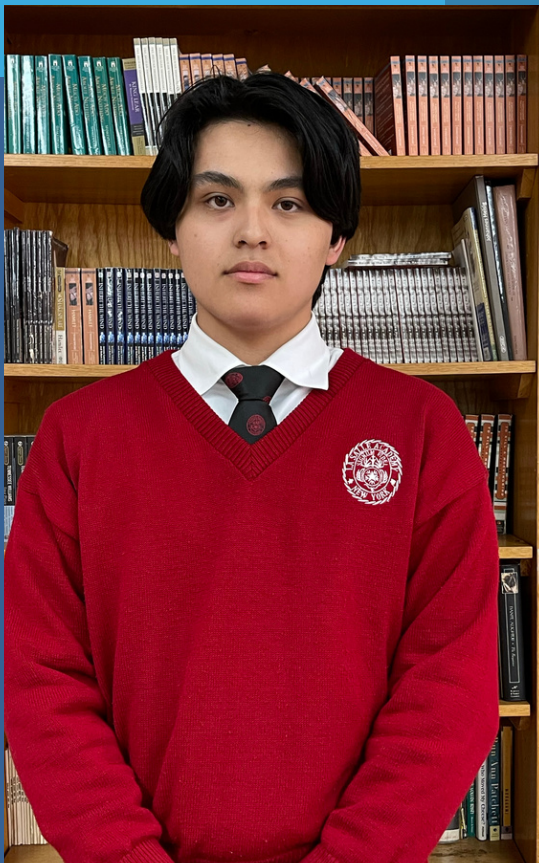
The rain keeps pouring, filling the aquifers beneath,
Making its way to the lakes and streams.
The sweet water glistens and gleams
The trouts swim in it, reproducing like machines.

Now in a tunnel, the water flows
Further from its start but closer to your homes.
Reaching the city through a complicated process,
No one stops to think about this fascinating success.





INTERVIEW WITH A **WATER** POETRY WINNER, ARIYAN REJAE



ARIYAN REJAE

Q. What is your grade level?

A. I am in grade 11 student.

Q. What are you favorite subjects?

A. I enjoy History and English.

Q. Were you surprised when you were selected as a winner?

A. Yes, I did not expect at all to win.

Q. Do you like to read poems?

A. Not really, but I enjoy some poems from time to time.

Q. What appealing features do you enjoy in poems?

A. I enjoy poems that have good imagery that really allow you to get immersed in the poem. I also like when the words in a poem have more than one meaning or intentions.

Q. What is your favorite poem?

A. I can't really think of a favorite poem.

Q. What is the best poem you have ever read?

A. "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas and "Dreams" by Langston Hughes

Q. Would you be writing any more poems in the future?

A. If I need to for school, then, yes.

Q. Should La Salle do more poetry in our English classes?

A. No, I think we do a good amount of poetry at La Salle.

Q. What college do you intend to attend?

A. I have not decided a particular school, but I intend to go to a State University of New York (SUNY).

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. I like cooking, working out, biking, backpacking/camping, and playing video games.

Q. What are your career aspirations?

A. I'm interested in getting a job in the business or tech field and make enough money to do what I enjoy outside of work.



SPOTLIGHT LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

On Monday, March 28, 2022, La Salle Academy Languages Department had its First Spelling Bee. It was a great opportunity for students to compete and express themselves in a language other than English.

After intense preparation, memorizing more than 500 words, Grade 11 students participated in this new challenge. The judges included Mr. Christian Pérez, teacher, Dr Ariel Orama Lopez, psychologist and filmmaker, and Mr. Dexter Ewews Hunter College professor.

The third place winner was Jeffrey Acquah (2023), second place went to Kelvin Lezama (2023), and first place went to Anddy Canelo (2023). Li Hu (2023) was honorably mentioned for his preparation of banners for this event.

The first place winner received a \$50.00 gift card while the second and third place winners were awarded \$25.00 and \$15.00 respectively. All participants received a certificate of recognition and a sweet gift treat.

Anddy Canelo (2023), served as a co-master of ceremony with Dr. Carmen Orama Lopez. Jesus Coalt (2023) began the event with a prayer. The Languages Department also acknowledges the following students who volunteered to organize the event, namely, Samuel Koutsoftas (2023), Abdul Kande (2023), Michael Rodriguez (2024), Ángel Morocho (2024), and Xavier Fajardo (2024).

Vianca Alejandra, a graduate student at Brooklyn University, and a mezzo-soprano, performed *De España Vengo* (zarzuela).

Both the principal, Ms. Kerry Conroy and the president of La Salle Academy, Brother Thomas Casey, complimented the participants' performances. Brother Thomas surprised the guests when he congratulated the students in fluent Spanish.

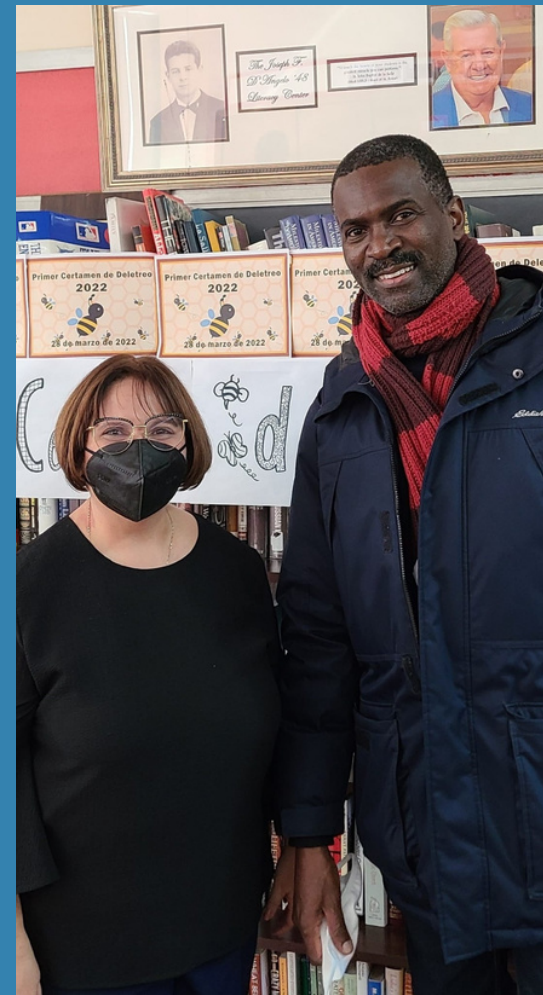
The event coordinator, Dr. Carmen Orama Lopez, ended the program by addressing each student individually, and wishing them great luck in future competitions.

The following photos are from the Spanish Spelling Bee competition held on March 28, 2022 at La Salle Academy.





MORE PHOTOS FROM THE SPELLING BEE





POETRY @ LASALLE

Deirdre

by Ernesto Martinez-Ariza

I am someone not something
I belong in this world and what you are doing, Deirde, is really disgusting
I am human yet it is me you hurt
Why do you treat me as if I am dirt!

I come the next day with a smile on my face
But then the bell rings and I can see your hate
Everyone sees me as I enter
Why aren't you nice, my hater, my tormentor!

Everyday I suffer
Life becomes tougher
I hope for a better tomorrow
But my eyes are filled with sorrow.

When will the day come
When I say I want to live
The next day in school
You still oppress me

Deidre, I complained to my teachers
But they could not understand your unkind gestures
Then I prayed to God for the bullying to stop
My life is now over the top!



ERNESTO MARTINEZ-ARIZA

MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR Q&A:

Q. Do you like to read poems?

A. I like to read poems that deal with sorrow or grief.

Q. What appealing features do you enjoy in poems?

A. I enjoy the various tones that I recognize in poems as well as the structure.

Q. What are your favorite poems?

A. My favorite poems are "When I Am Asked" by Lisel Mueller and "Remember" by Christina Rossetti

Q. Should La Salle do more poetry in our English classes?

A. La Salle should do more poetry in English class as it helped me express my thoughts and emotions.

Q. What college do you intend to attend?

A. I will be attending Hunter College.

Q. With whom do you live? Do you have any siblings? Where do you live?

A. I live in New York City with my parents and brother.

Q. What is your grade level?

A. I am in 12th grade.

Q. What are your favorite subjects?

A. My favorite subject is Sociology.

Q. What and who inspired you to write about your topic?

A. Past experiences inspired me to write about my topic.

Q. Were you surprised when you were nominated as a finalist from the American Library of Poetry?

A. I was surprised when I was nominated because I didn't think too highly of the poem I wrote.



POETRY @ LASALLE...



Odd Contusion

By: Mariano Mitchell

*One nice day in a pool at camp
The warm summer air feeling really damp,
A change in mood
From joy and cheer to darkness and gloom.*

*The basketball game by the pool with friends
Lots of fun until we go to the end,
Dunking the ball in a pool with the low rim
That was when everything turned dim.*

*My head hit the hoop
I fell in one quick swoop
The game was stopped
My head had popped.*

*Rushing to the hospital
I was afraid I would become a cripple
The cat scan said I was bleeding internally
The doctors reacted with urgency.*

*I recovered at last
Headaches belong to the past
My love for the game
Will always be the same.*

MORE ABOUT THE AUTHOR Q&A:

Q. With whom do you live?

A. I live with my mom and my dad.

Q. Do you have any siblings?

A. I have an older brother.

Q. Where do you live?

A. I live in Queens, New York.

Q. What is your grade level?

A. I am in 12th grade.

Q. What is your favorite subject?

A. My favorite subject is Sociology.

Q. What and who inspired you to write about your topic?

A. Trauma from an experience inspired me.

Q. Were you surprised when you were nominated as a finalist from the American Library of Poetry?

A. Yes, I was very surprised.

Q. What appealing features do you enjoy in poems?

A. I enjoy rhyme schemes and double entendres

Q. What is your favorite poem?

A. "Kin" by Maya Angelou.

Q. Should La Salle do more poetry in our English classes?

A. Yes, because this keeps the interest for content high.

Q. What college do you intend to attend?

A. I will be attending William Paterson University.



POETRY @ LASALLE...

Our Planets

By Antonio Palermo

*Earth is our home, where we've lived years over
Next is Mars, to research we sent a rover
While both old, Mars is very cold
The next two placed before are very hot
But Earth and Mars are not*

*The first planet is Mercury, where one side is burned by the sun
The other is dark and cold, so neither any fun
Then we have Venus, often called Earth's twin
A thick atmosphere holding in heat is its main blight
With a yellow surface and an appearance that's bright white.*

*Then come the next two, giants made of gas
Jupiter and Saturn, many moons they have amassed
Both are planets of the system that's outer
First is Jupiter, where thunderstorms are born
And then Saturn, which large rock rings adorn.*

*And here are the last, another set of two
Uranus and Neptune, in light and dark blue.
Smaller than the last two, with lots of ice
Uranus rotates on its side, that is chronic
Neptune is plagued by winds that are supersonic.*

Q. With whom do you live?

A. I live with my parents in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

Q. What is your grade level?

A. I'm a grade 12th student.

Q. What are your favorite subject?

A. My favorite subjects are probably English, Science, and History.

Q. What and who inspired you to write about your topic?

A. A person who inspired me to write about my topic was Neil Degrasse Tyson. He's a well-known astrophysicist who I look up to.

Q. What college do you intend to attend?

A. I plan to attend St. Joseph's University, Brooklyn. My major would be in Computer Information Technology (CIT).

Q. Were you surprised when you were nominated as a finalist from the American Library of Poetry?

A. I was very surprised to learn that I was selected as a finalist. I've always participated in these school-wide events since elementary school, but I never got past the school level. This was definitely a change for me, but it was certainly a welcome change.

Q. What appealing features do you enjoy in poems?

A. I enjoy reading poems especially those on the trains. I also follow social media accounts that have inspirational quotes on poetry.

Q. What appealing features do you enjoy in poems?

A. One of the features I like in poetry is imagery. With this, we can imagine what the author is trying to tell us and we can use details from the poem to paint a picture in our head on what the poem looks like.

Q. What is your favorite poem?

A. My favorite poem is probably "Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost. It emphasizes that the beginning of something, which is often the best part, can't last forever, so it should be cherished while it lasts.

Q. Would you be writing any more poems in the future?

A. If the inspiration hits, I might write some more poems.

Q. Should La Salle do more poetry in our English classes?

A. I don't think there's any harm in doing more poetry here at school. However, I think the students should have more freedom. They should be allowed to write about whatever they want, as long as it is not something bad.



**ANTONIO
PALERMO**



SPORTS WITH STEVEN CRUZ

By Alejandro Alvarez Luna

During the month of March, La Salle Academy alum Steven Cruz (2012) was very busy. Cruz is the Director of Basketball Operations at St. Peter's University in Jersey City and was a part of one of the best underdog runs in National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament history.

Way before Cruz had this role, he was a major team player of La Salle basketball team for all four years of his high school career. He then went on to Siena where he was a four-year walk-on of the men's basketball team, subsequently becoming team captain in his senior year.

As a student at La Salle, Cruz enjoyed playing basketball with his teammates. He considers his teammates his brothers. They enjoyed the connectivity that is La Salle.

After graduating from Siena, Cruz returned to La Salle as an assistant varsity coach from 2015 to 2018. Cruz said both his experiences as a player and coach at La Salle and his time in Siena allowed him to be prepared for his role with St. Peter's.

As Director of Basketball Operations, Cruz's main responsibilities included scheduling practices, making travel arrangements, and making sure everyone was on task.

As the season progressed in the March tournament and the team began to win, Cruz's responsibilities dwindled. The NCAA took over his responsibilities.

Cruz describes St. Peter's roller coaster ride with two words: crazy but enjoyable." The win against the University of Kentucky was his most satisfying and the loss to the University of North Carolina was his most memorable. Cruz is confident that next tournament St Peter's will surpass all expectations.

