

April Themes
National Poetry Month
National Library Week April 8-13

National Library Week

To celebrate National Library Week, I want to collaborate with the Arlington Public Library. I will be extending an invitation to a librarian in the central branch to visit for a day (or two!) to share their upcoming programs and also introduce the Books on Wheels program. I am going to request that the Books on Wheels program visit the neighborhood at least once a week in July and the first part of August so that students may have regular access to library books. During the month of June, students and families may check out books while extended year/summer school is in session. However, our students need to avoid the summer slide, so it would be a great help if the library could come to the neighborhood each week.

This visit will help kick off this initiative by ensuring that Anderson Elementary students have public library privileges by using their student ID numbers. Many of the students will already be enrolled and have their library cards, but since we have such a high mobility rate here at Anderson, we're likely to have quite a few who haven't been previously enrolled.

National Poetry Month

This is one of my favorite celebrations throughout the year. In MakerSpace, we're going to be crafting our own ransom poetry using weeded books, newspaper and magazine clippings, or whatever we can get our hands. We'll be getting the Art teacher involved to create backgrounds using more recycled materials. Students can take their creations home to use for Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts or contribute them to the library. I plan on mounting my collected student poetry to create a large collage for display.

We have an extensive collection of children's poetry that I'm looking forward to sharing during library lessons. The list I've put together below is just a sampling of our poetry collection though. Again, I want to use Poetry Prize coupons to encourage students to check out poetry books during the month. As in October and March, students who check out a poetry book for at least 3 days will receive a Poetry Prize from the treasure box. It is my mission to encourage reading across a variety of genres. Although this list only includes 2 Spanish language titles, we have about 50 volumes of poetry in Spanish in our Spanish collection.

The ReadWriteThink.org National Poetry Month page has a number of activities and lesson plans guaranteed to inspire you. There's also a couple of links you can use to familiarize yourself with ransom poetry below. The first is a blog post about ransom poetry, the second, a downloadable Word document with instructions on how to make a simple handmade book, which you can use to collect all the wonderful poems your students will be writing this month.

www.ezl.com/~limegr/documents/poetrybook_with_images.doc

<http://bjschupp.blogspot.com/2017/01/ransom-poetry.html>

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