

Communication Arts Teachers: Original Poetry

A focus of the ***Verses and Voices Festival*** is original poetry. All students should learn to express words creatively.

Poet Laureate Award: To encourage the creation and expression of poetic words Missouri's First Poet Laureate (2008-2010), Walter Barga, established a new award, *The Poet Laureate Award for Original Poetry*. Each school in Missouri may present one Missouri Poet Laureate Award each year for an original poem by one of its students. Each school will select its winning poem through an adjudicated display of poetry that is open to all students. It is recommended that the poetry display include an event of students reading their submitted poetry.

Individual School Poetry Displays: Each school will present a display of original poetry from October 10 – 14. The communication arts teacher will chair a committee that will select the award recipients. Send the award recipient names to Mary Ann Haenni by October 14 for certificates to be printed and signed. (mhaenni@savannah3.com)

Festival Awards: Each school may present three awards for original poetry; the Poet Laureate Award, the Superintendent's Award, and the Principal's Award. Up to six additional poems in each school may be given Honorable Mention Awards and presented in the *Festival Art and Poetry Display*.

Poetry Readers: Each one of the high school Poet Laureate Award recipients will read at the Festival Concert on Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m. All awardees are encouraged to read at the ***Poetry Café*** Open Mic Night.

Festival Art and Poetry Display: All award-winning poetry will be displayed at the *Festival Art and Poetry Display* on October 17 and 18. One poem will be selected to receive a *Best in Show* award.