

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

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For Immediate Release

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: Four schools to participate in Tulare County Poet Project next week

Students from Hurley Elementary, Central Valley Christian, La Sierra Military Academy and Mission Oak High School involved in pilot poetry project September 12-16

Visalia – The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), the Arts Consortium, and California Poets in the Schools (CPitS) are partnering on a brand-new initiative called the Tulare County Poet Project. Partially funded by the Visalia Community Arts Grant and the California Arts Council, Tulare County Poet Project has partnered with four schools for a weeklong poetry-writing seminar known as Poetry Week, which is scheduled September 12-16, 2016.

Tulare County poets Erin Grey Elliot (Tulare County Library), Catherine Abbey Hodges (Porterville College), and Uncle Bill Warner (retired teacher) will work directly with John Oliver Simon, president of CPitS, as poet-teachers in four Tulare County schools: Hurley Elementary, Visalia (4th grade); Central Valley Christian, Visalia (5th grade); La Sierra Military Academy, Visalia (10th grade); and Mission Oak High School, Tulare (multiple grades).

Students will discover the magic of poetry through the works of great poets, write their own poems based on a range of enjoyable prompts, learn to use poetic forms, and read their work aloud to classmates. **Poetry Week will culminate in a reading Thursday night, September 15, at 6:00 p.m.**

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in the TCOE Administration Building at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia. The event will feature the students involved in the project, Mr. Simon and the Tulare County teacher-poets.

Poetry Week Training Schedule

Mission Oak High School - 3442 E. Bardsley, Tulare (Mon. & Thurs.: 10:30 am – noon)

Hurley Elementary School - 6600 W. Hurley, Visalia (Tues. through Fri.: 1:20 - 2:00 pm)

Central Valley Christian School - 5600 W. Tulare, Visalia (Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 10:30 am – noon)

La Sierra Military Academy - 1735 E. Houston, Visalia (Tues. through Fri.: 2:30 – 3:20 pm)

California Poets in the Schools (CPitS) empowers students of all ages throughout California to express their creativity, imagination, and intellectual curiosity through writing, performing and publishing their own poetry. CPitS trains and coordinates a multicultural network of published poets, who bring their passion and craft to public and private schools, juvenile halls, hospitals, libraries and other community settings.

For more information about the Tulare County Poet Project, contact Project Coordinator Kate Stover at (559) 651-1482, email kstover@tcoe.org.

TCOE

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