

Lewis and Clark PTA  
Request for Funds for 2014-15



1. Contact Information:  
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2. Amount requested: \$2,400
3. Date by which funds are needed: November 1, 2014
4. Project name and description: Missoula Writing Collaborative's Poetry in the Classroom.  
For the past 5 (at least) years the school district has paid for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders to receive 16 (12?) weeks of weekly writing instruction from a member of the Missoula Writing Collaborative and PTA has paid for that instruction to continue in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This year the district has discontinued funding the 4<sup>th</sup> grade instruction. So we are asking for funding to continue 4<sup>th</sup> grade's instruction as well as 5<sup>th</sup> grade's.
5. The Missoula Writing Collaborative project gives the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to work ongoingly with a published and award-winning poet while developing and honing their own poetry-writing skills. Essentially, it provides a Poet-in-Residence who is also a gifted teacher.
6. Please explain how this project ties in with our curriculum.  
The MWC program addresses the following Common Core Writing Standards:
  - Standard 3** - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
  - Standard 4** - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
  - Standard 10** - Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range or discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.The MWC program addresses the following Common Core Language Standards:
  - Standard 3** - Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
  - Standard 5** - Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, work relationships, and nuances in word meaning.

7. How will PTA funds be used?  
PTA funds will be used to contract with Missoula Writing Collaborative for 16 (12?) weekly visits to each of the Lewis and Clark 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to instruct the students in writing poetry.
8. The classroom teachers stay in the classroom while the poet instructs and often participates in their own poetry writing along with the students, role-modeling the writing process. All the Lewis and Clark 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers support bringing the Missoula Writing Collaborative program back to Lewis and Clark.
9. Depending on start date the program involves a weekly visit by the poet to each classroom for about an hour. The program continues for 16 (12?) consecutive weeks culminating in an evening poetry reading by the students.
10. \$400 per class x 6 classes = \$2,400
11. Evaluation: Comparing the products of the first session to the products of the last session for improved ideas, organization, fluency, word choice, and voice in the students writing. Also, comparing growth in enjoyment of and willingness to write, often the stumbling block for young writers.