

Dear Educators:

Bring an artist to your school! The Writer's Voice of the Billings Family YMCA still has funding for our popular arts education/rural outreach program **POETS ON THE PRAIRIE**.

The program brings writers/artists into rural schools for a day of teaching and hands-on workshops. It nurtures an appreciation for the arts while at the same time featuring the diverse work of contemporary Montana artists. The artists are selected for their creative talent and for their interest and eagerness to share their work with students and teachers.

POETS ON THE PRAIRIE is designed as a classroom-oriented, working experience for the students and teachers. It is not meant to be an assembly or lecture for large numbers of students. Consequently, larger schools may not be able to include every student in the program on one day; these schools may want to target specific grades or they may wish to schedule more than one day. We want this to be a quality experience and hope for as much time as possible in the classroom to actively involve everyone in the creative process. For legal reasons and to aid with discipline, a teacher must remain in the classroom with the visiting artist at all times.

Classes include cowboy poetry, collage, fundamentals of drawing, theater arts and pantomime, improvisation, poetry, fiction and essay writing, newspaper or literary journal production, Crow language, introduction to brass instruments, watercolor, making chainmail, the concepts of dance, wood carving, plus more.

We have added four new artists this year – Dave Caserio, poetry; Jane Lind, Native American storytelling, song, and dance; Ron Garritson, Native American sign talking and Andrew Smith, theater improvisation. Bios of the artists and descriptions of their workshops are available upon request.

We are now planning fall 2010/spring 2011 schedules. To ensure receiving both the artist(s) and date(s) you want, please call and discuss the program, artists and which dates would work best for you. This will give us ample time to make the necessary arrangements.

The cost for a full day visit is \$75. Please contact The Writer's Voice, 248-1685, extension 231, with this information and/or any questions you may have.

Laila Nelson, Administrative Assistant

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