

Northwest School

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Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day!

December 9, 2019

DCU FOR KIDS

220 Donald Lynch Boulevard
P.O. Box 9130
Marlborough, MA 01752-9130

Dear DCU FOR KIDS:

We want to thank you not only for the grant funding we received but for the wonderful programming and books that it provided for our students and families. It was a fabulous action-packed day and evening here at Northwest and the students, especially, got so much out of it.

We have a wonderful staff here that makes literacy and excitement for reading a priority. In fact, Jeff, who travels internationally, said our reading team was the best he'd ever worked with. What a thrill it was to see their efforts extended by such a margin. Our survey of fourth and fifth graders showed a 70.3% increase in "desire to read" in these students after vs. before Jeff's programs. The programming did exactly what we wanted it to but well beyond our expectations.

Jeff's performances were engaging, interactive, and hilarious! I catch myself laughing when I visualize some of his poems. He was like an "Energizer Bunny" going non-stop through the day (5 performances) and then his night performance for our families! Our NW Bulldog community was buzzing for days with verses from his poems and performances. It is always so refreshing to hear children referencing quotes from past assemblies/performances!

I got several enthusiastic comments from teachers. Here are two examples:
"Our 5th grade students were engaged from start to finish. They were eager to respond to question and answer segments as well as movement opportunities throughout. Music, poetry, action, and video segments appealed to even the most hesitant of audience members-there was something for everyone!!!"

Jeff incorporated common core state standards that seamlessly aligned to our classroom work. Students used Jeff's poems to find examples of figurative language, verb tenses, and wrote opinion pieces supporting their view. Engaging students at this age is not an easy task and Jeff Nathan delivered through a variety of techniques.



Students were extremely excited to return to school for his evening session that was provided to students and their families. Students left feeling motivated as both readers and writers, regardless of age or skill level. Thank you to Jeff Nathan for a spectacular day of poetry!"
Taryn DiVito, Grade 5 Teacher

"*Grade-specific performances were informative, engaging, and entertaining.

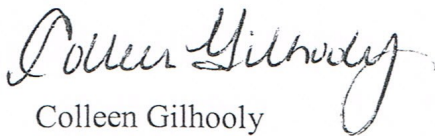
*Sherlock Poems captivated our students with his comedy and also provided strategies for comprehending poetry.

*Students and parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the evening program creating hink pinks."

Chanel Horgan, Title I Reading Teacher

Please know that we deeply appreciate all that you have done for our students. We can't thank you enough.

Sincerely,



Colleen Gilhooly
Principal