

**RUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3400 HULMEVILLE ROAD
BENSALEM, PA 19020**

MARY O. GENTILE, Ed.D, PRINCIPAL 215 750 2800 X1400

April 14, 2009

Joanne Leva
960 General Nash Drive
Lansdale, PA 19446

Dear Ms. Leva

We at Rush Elementary are delighted by our first experience with the efforts of the Montgomery County Poet Laureate Poetry WITS outreach program to bring poetry into the classroom. Poetry is the most challenging of literary genres. In a social climate that demands that children demonstrate the ability to interpret expository text with facility and express their ideas in clear, easily understood terms it is often the most neglected as well.

Children learn best when they have the benefit of authenticity. Because of your outreach endeavor a different poet led a three lesson unit in each of our 5th and 6th grader classrooms. Every child wrote, revised, and illustrated his/her own poem. As they worked they had the advice and support of an actual published author to guide them through the creative process. The children shared their finished products at a culminating poetry reading. This is a unique experience that the youngsters will take with them into the future.

Thank you for providing them with this very special opportunity.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary O. Gentile, Ed.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary O. Gentile, Ed.D.
Principal