

Poetry Lives On

New Program Offers Scholarship Opportunity, Literary Knowledge

By Vivian Phillips, *Hoof Print* News Editor

Dec. 13, the school wide competition for the first ever Poetry Out Loud competition was held in the black box. Student participants were asked to recite two poems to the judges and audience. The contest determined which student, out of the eight chosen during the last round of recitation, would be sent to the February state competition in Austin.

“The most difficult part of planning this event was collecting the information we needed to successfully host it,” junior Sofia Angulo said. “Beginning a program like this is intimidating but worth it for the experience we give students.”

Earlier this year, Angulo presented the idea of Poetry Out Loud to English Teacher Eric Cruz who happily encouraged the proposition. Planning was created originally with a class wide competition that was held in September. The entire effort was begun because of Angulo’s dream for the high school’s engagement in the program and the competition is now set to take place for many years to come.

“I really enjoyed watching my classmates perform last night as I’ve never really seen them open up like that,” sophomore Eleanor Badger said. “I also found it difficult to try to open up during my performance, but it was well worth it in the end.”

After each student performed, the four judges scored the individual recitation based on a few factors such as competitors accuracy when reciting, projection and pronunciation. The first round of recitation consisted of the student’s first poem choice, with an interlude taking place directly after to give competitors a small break before the second performance. After each student competed in the second round and the judges were given 10 minutes to make their final decisions. The runner up was senior Hanah Shields and the winner was sophomore Hailey Soupiset.

“What I found most striking about this event was how supportive everyone was of each other,” sophomore and previous competitor Charlotte Bell said. “Although it was a competition, it didn’t feel like it. Rather, the contest just felt like an opportunity to learn more about your peers and hear some really beautiful poetry along the way.”