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## Poetry Out Loud

By Cathy Tyson

Over a dozen Miramonte students participated in the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest on February 19th in the school theater.

Teacher Donia Gousios, who is working with fellow teacher Edd Simmons on the contest couldn't be more excited about it. She said, "Poetry Out Loud doesn't only speak to the drama student and the public speaking student, but it also speaks to the writer, perhaps the quiet student that really appreciates poetry, but is not yet ready to share their own poetry. Students that I have talked to are really hoping that this will open up a venue for them where they can write and recite their own poetry, a sort of "slam poetry" event. I think that something we need to remember as educators, and as parents, is that there are many different, creative outlets out there for our children and students. We just have to give them the opportunity and encourage their participation and see where they will go with it!"

Those wishing to cheer on the Miramonte winner should attend the County Finals in Pleasant Hill on Saturday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the School House Cultural Center at 2050 Oak Park Blvd.

The competition, presented in partnership with the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation is meant to encourage high school students to learn about great poetry.

The lucky California champion will go to the National Finals in Washington D.C. where \$50,000 in scholarships and school prizes will be awarded.