



Photo by Wendy Krier

The Great Valley Writing Academy at Waterford.

Great Valley Writing Project

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The Great Valley Writing Project a summer English learner writing academy, ended their three week writing camp by holding a family night that showcased the students work in an anthology. The students were also given a copy of Our Book By Us! That includes six "SugarLoaf" mini-books by Peter H. Reynolds. Also available were copies of Because Writing Matters from the California Writing Project who create the booklets for parents and guardians-because you are your children's first writing teachers.

According to their website, "The Great Valley Writing Project is funded through the California Writing Project, an entity of the California Subject Matter Projects, and the National Writing Project. Our focus is that of improving the teaching of writing through a teachers teaching teachers model. The GVWP offers invitational programs, Professional Development for schools and districts, Inquiry

Groups, Guest Author Series, and Young Writers' Programs. The GVWP serves Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne counties."

Waterford's G.V.W.P. was taught by theaters Deanne Andrade (5th-8th grade) and Renee Rios (1st-4th grade). "It's an intense writing program, the students are second language learners and were selected for their enthusiasm for writing." Said Deanne Andrade. "It's a variety of different ages, all (students) have been working together for their original stories. They interact and gain ideas from each other to gain writing skills, in areas such as revision, editing, and organization." Said Renee Rios. Helping out at the writing camp were bi-lingual aids Liliana Acosta, and Lucia Delatorre, both from California Mini-Corps who also share a background in migrant programs. "They are models of success, they are both going to college to become teachers." stated California Writing Project Executive Director Jayne Marlink, She added, "These programs are so important for English learners."

"We're thrilled families are here to support them, they worked very, very, hard. They write to a variety of

genres and get a feeling what it is like to be a writer." Said Carol Minner, Director Great Valley Writing Project. She added, "The Waterford district is really supportive." Waterford was picked to launch both the National Writing Project and the California Writing Project.

Waterford's Middle School Vice Principal Mr. George Kleidon said, "I think it's a great project, it teaches students about writing stories." He adds, "Jose Aldaco did a great job setting this up and recruiting students."

Maria E. Alvarez from Migrant Education spoke to the students saying, "This is one of my pride and joys. We've captured so many great moments with children and teachers. I'm very proud of you and I want you to know that you are leaving a positive legacy." Parents are also very proud of the children's accomplishments. Maria Jimenez says, "My daughter (Vanessa) feels happy to participate, and I'm happy that she's happy." Irma De Los Santos spoke about her son Bert saying, "He really comes out with writing ideas. He likes it, he really likes it."