

News Release

Everett Public Schools
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Poet Laureate Jack Prelutsky to visit James Monroe Elementary March 27

He once thought poetry was the equivalent of chopped liver. He wasn't sold when told, It's good for you. Today Bainbridge Island resident Jack Prelutsky is the first-ever poet of children's verse to be named poet laureate - after re-discovering poetry as a young man. He was urged by a friend to show his poems and drawings to an editor. The editor wasn't impressed by the drawings of striding, stalking, slinking and slithering animals but he was impressed by the poems he'd written to accompany them.

Since then he has been wowing other adults and children with zany new word creations, whacking words together and bouncing them off each other to juice up the mistakenly staid stereotype of poetry. (For example, read all about Prelutsky's boneless chicken lamenting the lack of superstructure to support his splendid little wings.)

In October 2006 Prelutsky was named by the U.S. Librarian of Congress as the nation's Poet Laureate - a position the Library of Congress Web site describes as the lightning rod for the poetic impulse of Americans ... the poet laureate seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of reading and writing of poetry.

Teachers around the world use Prelutsky's work to un-liver poetry for their students. Adults read the poems to children as much for their own enjoyment as to delight, or in some cases, scare the dickens out of the kids (as in his poem about the dozen grizzly bears at the bottom of the stairs).

James Monroe librarian Tracy Stavang is a devoted fan and jazzed about his appearance at her school. This is a really big thing, as he doesn't do many talks; he's so well loved! He will be doing a whole school presentation and showing his brand new book of poetry, Good Sports.

Prelutsky's school visit is being made possible with the support of the University Bookstore in Mill Creek.

More about Jack Prelutsky:
www.jackprelutsky.com/
www.kidsreads.com/authors/au-prelutsky-jack.asp
[January 2007 Seattle Post-Intelligencer article](#)