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Press Release
Feb. 27, 2013

It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This

Simply put, the best venue for any spoken word/slam poetry showcase and competition is Grant Union High School. No doubt about it. And on Friday, March 8, you can judge for yourself.

More than 100 Twin Rivers middle and high school students will be in the spotlight for what's going to be an uplifting and fiery evening of original works—the spoken word with no musical instruments or accompaniment. Writing styles, verbal performance and the power of language will take center stage.

"Lifting Our Voices" is this year's theme. Expect participants to speak from the heart with a hefty dose of truth.

"It's so fantastic to see the students communicate emotions and events in their lives with such poetic clarity," says Grant teacher Jeanette Providence. "It's also wonderful to see students who normally would be resistant to writing who are now writing in a way that's engaging and gives us insight into their lives."

Teachers came up with the idea of the showcase after collaborating with UC Davis on a special project to help students improve their writing skills. With a \$1 million Improving Teacher Quality Education (ITQ) grant from the California Postsecondary Education Commission, several Twin Rivers schools launched a three-year professional development program called "Closing the Achievement Gap Write Now." The program includes teacher training and mentor educators in the classroom who work directly with students on writing projects.

"Students are definitely finding their voices through this project," says Providence, who's also the Twin Rivers ITQ coordinator. "They become better writers and complete writing assignments more frequently. They gain a lot of confidence because they feel validated. Honestly, it's just great to see them celebrate literacy—because that's what they're doing—in their own unique way."

Contact Jeanette Providence at 916.716.3059 for more information.

WHAT: "Lifting Our Voices" Spoken Word Showcase

WHEN: 6 p.m. Friday, March 8, 2013

WHERE: Grant Union High School auditorium, 1400 Grand Ave., Sacramento, CA 95838

*Twin Rivers Unified School District serves approximately 27,000 preschool
through adult education students in northern Sacramento County.*

www.twinriversusd.org

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