



Gayle Danley Returns as Poet in Residence

Internationally recognized slam poet Gayle Danley returns to Indian Creek again this year for two residencies. For the first time, she will work with the ninth and tenth grade students at the Upper School during January. In February she returns to the Evergreen Campus for a residency with eighth graders.

At an Upper School assembly, Ms Danley engaged her audience of high school students. For one period she stood in front of the entire student body and their teachers and did poetry except that it was difficult to tell when the poems started and stopped. She is a slam poet or as she put it, "I don't write, 'Roses are red; violets are blue, sugar is sweet, and your feet stink, too.'" She brings her poems to her audience through the spoken word, movement, drama, and with a vocal range that crosses time and culture to entertain and to evoke response to a shared emotion- even though she may be speaking personally.

She did several poems talking about not thinking she was pretty, talking about her mama, and talking about the violence in her own life. She urged audience involvement asking them to sing "Respect" as she demonstrated her victory over being pretty. She had them tryout their pronunciation of the name, "Cosette," Mississippi style. She spoke to absolute silence as she related the domestic violence in her adult life, and again, to almost silence save for some sniffing, as she remembered her mother.

Freshmen and sophomores will work with Ms. Danley on slam poetry for a week in their literature classes. They will ultimately be able to perform their own work in front of their classmates.



The Artist-in-Residence is a long-standing tradition at Indian Creek going back to the mid-1990's. Visual, music, and performance artists have spent from a week to a month with groups of students so that students have the more in-depth experiences of working in the art form and working with someone who has made art his/her life. This year, ceramicist Sam Wallace will return to both campuses for a one month residency in the visual arts. Students will make slab and rope pottery under his artistic eye.

The residencies are made possible through the generosity and volunteer time of the Parent Teacher Organization and some matching grants.

Learn more about Gayle Danley at <http://www.gayledanley.com/>. Ms. Danley's residency is funded and organized by volunteers of the PTO Cultural Arts Committee. She will be doing a similar residency with the eighth graders in February.

[Read more about the Indian Creek School Parent Teacher Organization.](#)