



# East Hills School

Allison Brown  
Principal

Nichole Lewis  
Assistant Principal

## Book of the Month

April 2009

Dear Students, Teachers & Parents,

April is National Poetry Month. Teachers, students and many communities in America have celebrated it every April since 1996. The purpose of National Poetry Month is to encourage the beauty and enjoyment of reading and writing poetry. With that in mind, I chose *Hello Ocean* by Pam Muñoz Ryan as the April book of the Month.

Poetry is irresistible to read and write. It can make you sing, clap, and want more all at once. Poems are published with beautiful language, vibrant illustrations, and are filled with many writers' crafts that we have been exploring during our writing workshops in our classrooms: repeating words and lines, descriptive language, lists, sound words and rhyming.

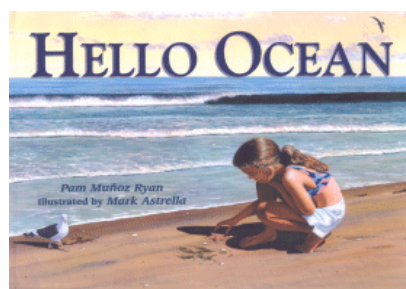
As you read, *Hello Ocean*, open your senses to the wonders of the beach. Celebrate the many marvels of the ocean experienced through our sense of taste, touch, sight, smell, and hearing. The gentle rhymes are descriptive and instructive, offering an almost tangible awareness of the ocean as well as an understanding of each particular sense.

I hope you enjoy the full-color illustrations that form a vibrant setting deftly capturing the vivid shades of the seas, with the dark indigos of deep waters and sheer turquoises of shallower depths. Beautifully written and illustrated, this striking picture book is the next best thing to being at the beach on a warm summer day.

Enjoy National Poetry Month!

With love,

Allison Brown  
Principal



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But when Katie Sue, a teeny girl too new to know she should be scared of Mean Jean, arrives at school, things change. Katie Sue kicks and swings and bounces before Mean Jean. When Mean Jean yells, Katie Sue talks back. And, as the schoolyard watches with bated breath, Katie Sue asks Mean Jean to play with her, something no one had ever dared to do before.

For the first time in her schoolyard career, Mean Jean, the Recess Queen, stops yelling and bossing and pushing and bullying, and just plays. She jumps and laughs and skips. She doesn't push or smoosh or hammer or slammer. She's having too much fun with her new friend.

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