

# MULBERRY SCHOOL

PARENT PARTICIPATION PRESCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE

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## **NATION'S FIRST CHILDREN'S POET LAUREATE VISITS MULBERRY SCHOOL**

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### **For Immediate Release**

**LOS GATOS, CA, MAY 7, 2007 –**

Mulberry School, a parent participation school for children from preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, has a very special pen pal. Three years ago, Mulberry's second graders started a pen pal relationship with author and poet laureate, Jack Prelutsky, who is paying a visit on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Inspired by Prelutsky's love of nature, the children sent Jack a book of their poetry and a glass mobile of insects which the children created in the school's glass kiln. Prelutsky sent a photo of himself in his garden with the mobile and also sent a book for each child. The children who began the pen pal relationship are now fifth graders eagerly anticipating the author's first visit. Over the years, he became intrigued by the philosophy and curriculum of Mulberry School and decided to make a special visit. Now, the whole school is preparing a special gift, an anthology of original poems inspired by Jack's writings.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Jack is spending the day at Mulberry, starting with an all school assembly followed by a series of small group meetings with different grades throughout the day and concluding with book signings. The event is not open to the public.

In September 2006, Prelutsky was named the first Children's Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation. For over 30 years, Jack Prelutsky's inventive poems have inspired legions of children to fall in love with poetry. He has filled more than forty books of verse with his inventive wordplay. His award-winning books include *The New Kid On The Block*, *The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*, *The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders* and *If Not For The Cat*.

While attending a Bronx, New York, grade school, Prelutsky surprisingly developed a healthy dislike for poetry due to a teacher who "left me with the impression that poetry was the literary equivalent of liver. I was told it was good for me, but I wasn't convinced." In his early twenties, he spent six months drawing imaginary animals and wrote short poetry verses to accompany each drawing. A friend encouraged him to show them to an editor who loved his poems (although not his artwork!). Prelutsky listened and he is still busy writing. He lives in Seattle, Washington. His website is [jackprelutsky.com](http://jackprelutsky.com).

Mulberry School provides a unique educational environment which offers rich academic preparation along with an equal emphasis on social and emotional development. Mulberry's multi-sensory, experiential, and integrated curriculum insures children are truly engaged with and connected to content. As a Positive Discipline Demonstration School, Mulberry students learn to resolve conflicts with mutual respect, cooperation and problem solving skills. At Mulberry, parents bring their enthusiasm and talents to the classrooms and model daily for our students how the adults around them value their education. More information about Mulberry School can be found at [www.mulberry.org](http://www.mulberry.org).

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