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## CPCI Impact Reports

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To: ccpta-arlington@googlegroups.com

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Hi CCPTA!

As Chair of the CPCI Committee (formerly Working Group), I wanted to share two recent impact reports we have received from grant recipients. As contributors to the CPCI grant fund, you deserve to see how your hard-earned donations have been put to use. Your contributions have improved student experiences and opportunities in significant ways!

Thank you for your generosity and for taking a County-wide approach to your advocacy for Arlington's students!

Emily Vincent  
Chair, CPCI Committee

----- Thomas Jefferson Middle School (Author Visit, \$2350) -----

On April 24, students received some first class entertainment from award winning young adult author Pablo Cartaya. He spoke at three assemblies, one for each grade level, as well as holding a special Spanish session with our Spanish speaking HILT A students. He told his story in English and partly in Spanish too, about the themes of family, culture and community. Pablo told of the pain of losing his language and changing his name in order to get a job. Then he told the students how he reclaimed his Cuban identity and relearned how to speak Spanish. He told the students of his first romance with great humor and energy. He ended by asking students to chant "My Voice Matters!"

It was clear that our students were highly engaged, laughing and clapping along with Pablo's stories. Furthermore, our students asked Pablo a range of thoughtful and provocative questions. The students showed by their questions a deep understanding and appreciation of the stories that Pablo shared. Finally, he shared how his writing process worked, how failure could lead to success, and how he had to write 6,000 pages to get to 300 good ones. The students left not only entertained, but also inspired about the work and power of story telling.

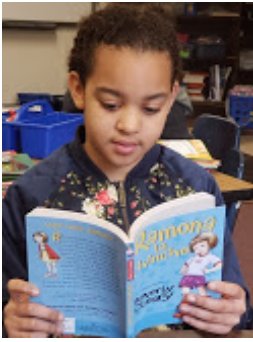
Additionally, one of our students (who typically does not like school and hates to read) met with Pablo after his presentations. They talked for about 15 minutes, and he even read some of her writing. The student felt that she had a deep connection with Pablo Cartaya's book, "Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish," one of the few books she has completely read. Like the main character, Perla's brother also has Down Syndrome. Perla commented that, "Pablo inspired me to write and read more." I attach a few photos of the Pablo with Perla. (photos labeled "Pablo with Perla" and "Pablo with Perla 2")

----- K.W. Barrett Elementary School (Libros en Español, \$1250) -----

This year we asked for grant money to purchase books in Spanish for each classroom library. Our goal was to support literacy in both Spanish, which all students at Barrett either speak natively or study in our FLES classes. Thanks to the generosity of the CCPTA, we were able to purchase 343 books in Spanish. We purchased books for all grade levels, PK-5, as well as students in MIPA, Mini-MIPA, and Functional Life Skills. We gave each grade level a variety of books so students at all levels were to choose a "just right book."

Additionally, we gave each grade level different books so that students would have new books to read at each grade level. We were able to provide a wide variety of books, such as poems, non-fiction, graphic novels, pictures books, chapter books, and biographies.

Teachers have expressed their thanks for these resources, noting that students of all levels of English proficiency are choosing to read Spanish, not just newcomers. Teachers are thankful to give students books they are excited to read. Students who have been reluctant to read are excited to choose a book in Spanish and love that they are new books, not used. We anticipate this excitement will continue each year as students get to enjoy new books at each grade level. Thank you for allowing the learners at Barrett to add to their classroom libraries and support their first and second language literacy goals! (photos labeled Barrett 1-10)



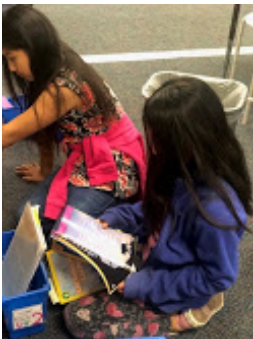
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