

# San Antonio Writing Project

Daily Log



June 20, 2006

**Mary Ellen** has been teaching for 13 years. She has been teaching at the San Antonio Day School for the last five years as a multi-age classroom teacher. She uses the writer's workshop method to teach children to write. Mary Ellen began her presentation, *Writing the Universe*, by giving us the background information of a Montessori School.

The presentation began with Kathy reading "The Beginning" as Mary Ellen acted out the story using a variety of items such as a balloon, bowl of sand, rocks, air freshener, 3 test tubes filled with blue water color, honey and oil.

Each person in class was then asked to create a symbolic timeline using beads to represent the important events in the story. Each bead had to represent part of the story. Mary Ellen also included art and music in her presentation. We were asked to pick a picture postcard, draw the image on a black piece of paper using oil pastels and then create a poem or story to describe the picture.

*Some of the comments heard around the room were:*

"This is fun!"

"I'm challenged."

"I need my reading glasses!"

Thanks Mary Ellen for such a wonderful hands-on experience! Science will never be taught the same again.

**Lily** has been teaching for a year, but you would never know this after observing her presentation. This past year she taught in a 2/3 grade bilingual class at Sarah King Elementary School on the west side of San Antonio. Next year she will be moving up to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level.

Lily's presentation, Letter Writing, included letters that were written for a specific purpose that included the following: personal communication, role playing, and letters to inform the reader. She presented sample letters written in class by her children. What a treat it was to see some wonderful letters written in Spanish! Lily's presentation also included some samples from the internet on: business letters, friendly letters and personal letters. Lily asked the class to randomly select a person from her lady bug basket. Each class member was asked to write a letter to that person.

This activity produced some very humorous connotations as well as a few serious ones. Several people shared their creative letters. Thanks, Lily for allowing us to laugh aloud...laughter truly is the best medicine!

Don't forget to check out Lily's list of books and websites on her handout!

## **Recommendations by Mary Ellen:**

**Books** [In the Company of Children](#) By Joanne Hindley

[Public Places](#) by Shelley Harwayne

## **Places to Visit**

[Fort Davis McDonald Observatory](#)

[www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com)

[Canyon of the Eagles](#)

[www.canyonoftheeagles.com](http://www.canyonoftheeagles.com)

## **Movie**

[Cosmic Voyage](#)-narrated by Morgan Freeman





# Points to Ponder

Should we teach rules to the Writing Process?

If you would like to be on Trinidad Sanchez's mailing list, you can e-mail him at [trinidadjr43@hotmail.com](mailto:trinidadjr43@hotmail.com).

This year's NCTE conference will be held November 16-21 in Nashville, Tennessee.

[www.ncte.org/profdev/conv/annul](http://www.ncte.org/profdev/conv/annul)

Summer Literary Festival  
[White Space Helps You Think](#)  
For more information check out  
[www.geminiink.org](http://www.geminiink.org)