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For Immediate Release

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GRANT BRINGS CREATIVE WRITING TO HANCOCK ELEMENTARY

Hancock Elementary School is pleased to announce that we have received a matching grant of \$2000 from the Arizona Commission on the Arts (including funding from the National Endowment for the Arts) for an all-school Artist in Residence Program that began on April 21, 2014. Extra-Curricular Tax-Credit donations from parents and community members also provided funding.

Stella Pope Duarte, our artist, is an accomplished author and expert at guiding students through the creative writing process. Ms. Duarte is working daily at Hancock Elementary School for four weeks to immerse our students in the art of creative writing. She is also a university professor and teaches English and creative writing for schools, colleges, and community centers working with students of all ages. She has won many awards including a Pulitzer Prize Nomination and the American Book Award. She is also a highly sought-after inspirational speaker, and a favorite keynote speaker for all audiences.

Ms. Duarte began her residency guiding students through brainstorming, sketching, and other creative writing techniques. Students are creating several writing works including fables, poetry, odes, and other works using metaphors and similes. Students are using imagery, character sketches, and many more techniques to expand their thinking and share their ideas through creative writing. The core grade, 3rd grade, will be developing a portfolio of around twenty works!

Ms. Duarte and Hancock students will present a combined Art Walk and Classroom Creative Writing Performance event on Thursday, May 15 at 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Hancock Elementary School. Hancock hallways will be opened at 5 p.m. to view the Art Masterpiece projects our students have been working on throughout the year. Then, at 5:30 p.m., our 3rd grade students will perform some of their creative writing work in their classrooms. This final event is open and free of charge for parents, teachers, community leaders, and the general public to attend.

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To Print and Television Media:

The media is encouraged to photograph and/or video Artist in Residence Program sessions and final events at Hancock for any follow-up articles that may be desired. Contact Curt Landon at Hancock Elementary to schedule times to view Ms. Duarte's sessions in class or if any other information is required. Thank you for your time!