

November 10, 2008

Dear Educators,

We are pleased to announce the 2009 *Parkmont Poetry Festival* and to enlist your help in gathering submissions of student work. This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Festival, an endeavor that we launched in the belief that the untapped voices of young poets in our community deserve recognition. Their efforts to find music and meaning in their experience are what Parkmont School celebrates with this event.

Open to any student in grades six through twelve at a District of Columbia public, private or charter school, the Festival will honor forty finalists – twenty from middle schools and twenty from upper schools – at a reading and awards ceremony on the Parkmont School grounds, May 9, 2009 at 2 p.m. A panel of distinguished area poets, led by Jennifer Pierson, will select the semi-finalists and then the finalists. The deadline for submissions is March 2, 2009.

Please help us to reach the students in your classrooms or in your lives who are exploring self-expression through poetry. Enclosed is a copy of the submission form that must accompany each poem. Feel free to reproduce and distribute it; an additional copy can be found on our website, www.parkmont.org. Select the link for *Poetry Festival*.

I look forward to connecting with you throughout the year and perhaps meeting you at the reading next spring. If you have any questions, please contact me, Kim Schraf, at Parkmont School: 202-726-0740, ext. 306. You may also e-mail me at poetry@parkmont.org.

I look forward to receiving your students' submissions!

Sincerely,

Kim Schraf
Parkmont Poetry Festival Coordinator

Enclosures