

**April 30, 2010**

**Members of the Parker Poetry Club at Parker Junior High School in Flossmoor School District 161 are preparing to compete in the Half Pint Poetics (HPP) poetry slam on Thursday, May 20, at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).**

**The Half Pint Poetics poetry slam is an annual social and environmental justice event for youth ages 8 to 14. HPP is produced by Kuumba Lynx, an arts and educational program, with support from the College of Education of UIC, Chicago Public Schools Office of Arts Education, and various other youth education organizations.**

**Parker Junior High School poets aspiring to perform include sixth grade students M'Bella Beseka, Sydney Espinosa, and Claudia Roberts; seventh grade students Naseem Ahmed, Michelle Jiles, Nadia Ramos and Tiffani Riley, and eighth grade students Matthew Anyiwo and Joshua Saleem.**

**The Parker Poetry Club is coached by staff members Adewale Apata and Nisa Perez.**

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Photo Caption – MVC 005S.JPG

Pictured from left to right: sixth grade student M'Bella Beseka, Poetry Coach Adewale Apata, and eighth grade student Matthew Anyiwo.