

## **FOR PARENTS**

### **What are the four-day Summer Creative Writing Workshops?**

In partnership with the U.S. Embassy and the American Corners, Writers in the Schools (WITS) has placed noted poet Merrilee Cunningham as the Writer-in-residence at our three American Corners. The WITS program supplements the academic study of language arts on two levels: academic enrichment and personal development.

### **Tell me more about Writers in the Schools.**

Please see their website: <http://www.witshouston.org/>. You might also enjoy WITS' blog: <http://witsblog.org/>.

### **What will my child do in the program?**

Your child can expect to work with the writer every day for two hours for four days in the American Corner. The writer will also have a co-teacher. She will bring stories and poems from different cultures, encouraging your child to write creatively from his or her own perspective. Even the most hesitant writers do well in this program as they learn to harness the power of their own imaginations. While your child needs to have basic English, he or she will write in his or her native language.

### **Why is creative writing important?**

Studies have shown that involvement in the arts is linked to:

- Higher academic performance,
- More community service, and
- Lower school dropout rates.

Good writing skills not only help your child excel in language arts class--often, when writing skills improve, all other subjects improve as well.

### **Want to do more?**

Because learning begins at home, here are some suggestions to encourage your child to continue reading and writing after the WITS experience. You can read aloud to a child of any age. Also your child can:

- Write an ode, a poem dedicated to his/her favorite person, place, or thing,
- Design and write a comic book,
- Make a family tree and write a funny story about each relative,
- Write a letter to the author of a favorite book, and mail it to the publisher,
- Set a goal for the number of books your child wants to read in a month,
- Keep a list and reward your child after he or she completes it, and
- Write the biography of his or her best friend.