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## He's a Zucker for poetry

By **Jillian Fennimore**/ Staff Writer

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"I'm here because I love poetry," said a man in bright yellow sneakers with rainbow-colored laces, a patterned vest and a piano-print tie. "I like to read it, I like to write it, but most importantly, I like to eat it with my eyes."

"Ewwwww," said a group of kindergarten students from the Cunniff School as they sat attentively in the school's library during artist David Zucker's performance.

Zucker was there Monday morning with a bag full of tricks and a mind full of poems as part of the Young Audiences of Massachusetts, a provider of arts outreach programs since 1962.

The Cunniff School hosted the event for all of their students. The older grades saw a spirited Halloween program called "Poems That Go Bump in the Night," and the younger students had fun with "Poetry in Motion."

"When I have poetry inside my head, I feel like I'm on summer vacation," said Zucker to a group of kindergarteners.

With props such as a pirate hat and scarf, and a cat nose and cap, Zucker was able to create a room full of imagination for the students.

He gave virtual high-fives to kids in the crowd, made one audience member hold a make-believe brown bunny, and dangled a fake wooden snake named "Billy from Philly" in front of the kindergarteners, reminding students to always use their imagination in order to go places.

"That's what poetry is about - the unexpected," said Zucker.

After laughs, claps and bravos from the crowd, Zucker packed his sticker-covered prop box and continued on his way to travel to other schools across the country and spread the word of poetry.

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