

## Students at Garcia Elementary School Learn Lessons About Reading

Fourth grade students at Garcia Elementary School (GES), in the Canutillo Independent School District, were recently treated to a special visit by well-known author, Benjamin Alire Saenz, who has written more than 15 books including poetry, novels, and children's books.

Saenz was invited to GES not only to read to the students, but also to listen as the fourth grade composition winners read their own stories in front of peers. As aspiring writers, these seven students were able to share their work with a published author and gain valuable knowledge from his experience.

After listening to their fellow students' compositions, GES students focused on Mr. Saenz as he began to read his book, "The Dog Who Loved Tortillas". The students experienced many emotions, from laughter to almost tears, as they listened to Saenz read. When Saenz had finished reading his book, a student asked him, "Why did you want to be a writer?"

Saenz explained, "When I was a boy, all I did was read, I read, and read, and read, so I was always reading, which made me want to become a writer. I think I can I said to myself." "And so I did," he added.

As a final encouragement to the students, Saenz stated, "When I was in fourth grade, I loved writing; it was a way that I could express myself."



Fourth grade students from Garcia Elementary School that won the writing composition contest pose with author, Benjamin Alire Saenz. (Shown in photo, l. to r.)-Sergio Saucedo, Vivian Sanchez, Marissa Sandoval, Benjamin Alire Saenz, Cory Carrillo, Gabriella Ana, and Romelia Acosta. (Not shown in photo - Jacob Damian)