



## Head to Shoulders' reading, rapping show

**BILL CONGER**  
Smithville Review  
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The three R's of traditional education take a different twist March 1 at DeKalb West School's third Annual Family Literacy Night.

Reading and 'riting add the new ingredient of rapping to the mix thanks to Michael Shoulders. The children's author will be reading and rapping his creative works to the community Thursday night, and he usually also has a magic trick or two up his sleeve.

Alongside the entertainment is Shoulder's desire to help families instill their children with a love of books.

"It's really simple, but parents and grandparents don't know intuitively what they can do to help their children love books," Shoulders said. "Maybe they'll pick up a tip or two."

"Parents are their child's first and constant teachers," the retired educator adds. "What they do at home is as valuable as

what teachers do in school. Families need to celebrate books and not see them as a challenge. There are three ways to have a comfortable life: inherit a ton of cash, win the lottery, or be an avid reader to grab those best paying jobs later in life."

Previous literacy nights at DWS have been successful, and no doubt the third occasion will be charmed too.

"I believe most people truly value learning, and literacy is at the heart of learning," Event Coordinator/School Librarian Amanda Mullinax says of the community response. "I am grateful that families are taking the time to work this event into their already busy schedules!"

DeKalb West will pitch tents for the event, dubbed Camp Read 'More, starting at 5:00 p.m. In addition to Shoulders, activities will include a young illustrator, a local puppeteer, an escape game, visit to Wonderland, a book walk and much more. Look for possible guest appearances by The Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2, Alice, and The Mad Hatter.



Children's author Michael Shoulders will bring his blend of reading and rapping to DeKalb West School's Family Literacy Night to spread love of reading in an entertaining way.



## SES Students of the Month

Photo provided

Assistant Principal Anita Puckett and Principal Julie Vincent present SES Student of the Month awards for February to Pre-K, Julien Kleparek, Kindergarten, Addison Love, 1st grade: Brandon Garcia and 2nd grade, Khloe Grandstaff.

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