

## Famed Korean Magician Delights BBL 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders!

Mr. Taeksoo Kim, a public school teacher in South Korea and one of his country's premier magicians, provided BBL 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders with a thrilling – and educational – magic show on Feb. 24. The children repeatedly laughed and applauded as Mr. Kim produced flower bouquets out of thin air, performed mesmerizing tricks with seemingly solid silver rings, and, when we turned off the room's lights, made fireflies disappear into his mouth and emerge from his ear.

The show had a bilingual slant, as the children learned new vocabulary in Korean for words like thumb, index finger, and firefly. And there was a science component, when Mr. Kim balanced a plastic drinking straw on top of an unopened glue stick, and made the straw rotate back and forth with “invisible string.” The secret? He had charged one end of the straw with static electricity by rubbing it on his shirt. Then, because human bodies contain electrical currents that emit an electronic field, all he had to do was bring his hand near the end of the straw, and the straw swung towards his hand like magic.

The children – and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teachers – were shocked by these amazing sights. Mr. Kim also brought volunteers to the front of the room and taught them some of his secrets.

“The show was great!” said Chidera, one of our students. “It was fun because he had fire on the end of a stick. Then the fire went in one direction, but the stick went in another and turned into a rose.”

Morgan, another student, also liked Mr. Kim's fire tricks. “It was awesome when he put fire into a pot. Then he drew a cloth over it and the fire turned into candy for all the teachers.”

BBL children have been treated to dozens of cultural events over the years, thanks to our one-of-a-kind Korean language program. We thank our Korean teacher, Ms. SooJin Kim, and the Korean consulate of New York, for arranging and funding these events.