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RHYMING SCIENCE

By **ANDREA MILLS** / CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

When Linda Bartrom-Olsen, a chemistry teacher at Villa Park High School known as “Dr. B,” first authored her children’s books, “A is for Atom” and “B is for Biology,” she envisioned them as a way to introduce science to young students, treating it as a fun and relatable subject.

Each book has colorful illustrations, engaging rhymes that teach, in age-appropriate terms, concepts and facts about everything from A to Z, or atoms and cells to zebras. The rhymes are written in both English and Spanish on every page, thanks to her Spanish-language collaborator, Brenda Ochoa.

Teacher Aura Ilinescu at Serrano Elementary School uses “B is for Biology” with her 32 third-graders, pairing them up to read with one another, or in small groups, and then discussing the concepts. Then Ilinescu noticed an extra benefit: the students are learning and appreciating a second language!!



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