

2 0 1 1 F A L L E D I T I O N

READ TO THEM

NEWSLETTER

CREATE A COMMUNITY OF READERS - WWW.READTOTHEM.ORG



Value Reading Aloud

- Improves Listening Literacy
- Builds vocabulary.
- Improves kids' reading..
- Improves kid's writing.
- Creates excitement about reading.
- Family homework EVERYONE loves!

Opportunity Knocks *in Arkansas*

By attending the Arkansas State Reading Conference your school can get the inside scoop about how in Bentonville, Arkansas, the entire community comprised of over 4500 families, has successfully done *One School, One Book (OSOB)* for three consecutive years! They are building a Community of Readers by participating in the most successful family literacy program in existence today. Get the nuts and bolts from Bentonville speakers at the Arkansas State Reading Association (ARA) Conference. This school division yearned to

inspire reading at home, as educators recognize this key to developing successful readers. Kids do what they see at home. This is the family involvement literacy piece you are looking for! Karrie Slane, Vice Principal of Apple Glen Elementary School, will head up a team of speakers from several Bentonville Elementary Schools presenting "One Journey With *One Community, One Book*" on November 17, 2012 at the ARA Conference. Jump on the Arkansas bandwagon. See the ARA contact information below.

Save the Date

November 17-18, 2011 - Arkansas State Reading Association Conference

*Attend..... "One Journey With **One Community, One Book**"*

(Visit www.arareading.org)



YES! OSOB Works With Special Needs Children

OSOB generates conversations throughout the school, the home and the community! It was recently reported to Read To Them (RTT) that autistic children are embracing OSOB. It makes them feel part of the school community in a way that is powerful and previously unattainable. Gary Anderson, founder of RTT, tells of encountering a family at a convenience store in Bentonville, AR during a visit there. He struck up a conversation with the children about *The Trumpet of the Swan*, and brought their mother to tears. She reported that she had been reading the book aloud at home to her family, but she never realized her special needs child was even listening...let alone gaining so much from the experience. He was “right there” answering all Gary’s questions! *One School, One Book* pulls in ALL kids!



Nebraska Teacher’s Goal? One State, One Book!

Lisa Guenther, Reading Recovery/Title I Teacher, from Norfolk, Nebraska, has achieved much success with OSOB. She has recruited public and parochial schools in her community of 24,000 to participate with more schools joining each year. Seems like no school wants to be left out of *Three Schools, One Book*, which Lisa claims is only the beginning of *One City, One Book*. Now she’s determined that this could/should become a state-wide program. Now that’s dedication! Ambitious you say? Well, you don’t know Lisa Guenther! She is

“on fire” when she talks about OSOB. “It’s magical. I LOVE it!”, states Lisa as she swells with stories of its success. She tells of one family who went to a local restaurant for dinner, and overheard another family talking at a nearby table....a book talk ensued with these two families from two entirely different schools....all talking about *Because of Winn Dixie*. Grandparents who live out of State skype their grandchildren nightly as they read the book together across the miles. Interested Nebraskans can hear Lisa’s success story at the November 4th Nebraska Read Aloud Conference (www.readaloudnebraska.org) OR feel free to contact Lisa Guenther personally and help her achieve this lofty goal (402-841-4768 and LisaGuenther@npsne.org).

Creative Funding

- Amy Belew, Read Aloud Coordinator, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, reports that they collect donated copies of the OSOB selection at the end of the OSOB month and box them up to send to another school who wishes to participate and needs the support! GREAT IDEA - paying it forward!
- In Spotsylvania, Virginia, Lisa Andruss, Assistant Principal of Spotsylvania High School, heard that one local Elementary School could not get funding to participate in OSOB with two sister schools, so she has applied for a grant to support these students and has recruited approximately 90 high schoolers who are older siblings and other mentors to assist at Livingston Elementary School to make sure all of the kids get read to.
- If you have a OSOB creative funding idea, email RTT Newsletter Editor, Jan Bates (jbates@readtothem.org) and your idea will be mentioned in an upcoming newsletter!



Newsletter Submissions Requested...

What are your OSOB stories?
What's your favorite OSOB title? Why?
What are your families saying?
How has OSOB impacted student academics?
How does your school celebrate OSOB?
Contact the RTT Newsletter Editor
jbates@readtothem.org



New to *One School, One Book*? Try reading E.B. White's
The Trumpet of the Swan, a book everyone loves and approves of!

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ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK BRINGS SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO SHARE A COMMON READING EXPERIENCE

Contributed by John Micklos, RTT Executive Board

Imagine a school where the hot topic of conversation among the students and faculty is...a book! In 36 states and 4 provinces across the United States and Canada, schools and even entire districts are creating an exciting shared reading experience around a single children's book through the One School, One Book (OSOB) program, which now operates in more than 200 schools.

One School, One Book stimulates a true "book buzz" in participating schools. Students at Gurney Elementary School in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, not only enjoyed reading *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden, but also participated in a variety of activities related to the book. To build off the cricket's operatic chirping, the faculty brought in singers from a local university to teach the students about opera. To commemorate the cricket's trip to Chinatown, students munched on Chinese food, made dragons and lanterns in art class, and much more! In general schools do as much or as little as they choose, and it's this flexibility which makes it so replicable.

One School, One Book aims to get students excited about reading by involving the entire school community—faculty, students, and parents—in sharing a single book at the same time. OSOB is the flagship program of Read to Them (RTT), a nonprofit organization founded by long-time school psychologist Gary Anderson. For years Anderson worried about what he called "third-grade slideouts"—students who lost interest in school because of their struggles with reading. He firmly believed that reading aloud to children for just 15 minutes a day could make a huge difference for many of these struggling students. "I love the full-on engagement between the home, the school, and the community," adds Anderson. "When you can get all three of them to focus on a book and create a community of readers, it really captures all aspects of a child's life."

"OSOB really jump starts students' enthusiasm," says Bruce Coffey, who pioneered the concept at Fox Elementary School in Richmond, Virginia, and now serves as director of OSOB. "It also gets the entire school focused on the same book, which takes the engagement to a whole new level. When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about!" The program also helps bring families closer. One parent actually credited the program with saving his marriage by creating an activity the entire family could enjoy together. Another father who was being deployed to Iraq taped readings to send home to his children.

Participating schools and districts may select from a list of about 20 books recommended by OSOB, including titles by Newbery Medal-winning authors Kate DiCamillo and Christopher Paul Curtis, or they may choose their own title. Many schools use Title I funds or donations from parent groups or corporate sponsors to cover the cost of roughly \$4 to \$5 per family. RTT provides many OSOB resources at your disposal on the RTT website

Increasingly, clusters of schools and even entire districts are getting involved. Districts in Arkansas, West Virginia, and Virginia have launched successful One District, One Book programs.

To learn more about One School, One Book, visit <http://www.readtothem.org> or call 804-310-1214.