

S P R I N G 2 0 1 4

# Read to Them

Creating a Culture of Literacy in Every Home



**OSOB on Ellen!**



On March 12, Ellen DeGeneres gave money and support to Kirby Thomas, a dynamic librarian at Christa McAuliffe E.S. in Broken Arrow, OK.

Kirby announced on the air that she wants to use the gift to bring **One School, One Book** to her school!

[Watch the clip here.](#)

[Click here](#) to tell Ellen about *your OSOB* or *ODOB* experience.

Please share your inspiring *OSOB* stories – maybe she'll feature us on her show again.

## Roane County Expands *One School, One Book* Title I Funds Enable Annual Participation

Roane County, W.V. Reading Specialist Lisa Alfred always remembers to say “Thank You” for her funding, but she no longer has to say “Please.” After piloting *One District, One Book* in 2011 with community raised funds, she has been able to secure Title I funding for the last two years, and has every reason to expect that it will continue. 15% of Title I funds are specifically set aside for Parental Involvement and *ODOB* perfectly fills the bill.

(continued on p.2)

Follow Us!

Twitter



@1school1book

Facebook



Read To Them

RTT Blog



www.readtothem.org/blog



Phyllis Reynolds Naylor shares her book, *Shiloh*, in Roane County, West Virginia.

## *One District, One Book* in Roane County, W.Va.

*continued from p.1...*

Lisa and her colleagues already had an exciting literacy program in their district, kicked-off by an annual February “Read from the Heart” week – which included daily themes like “Hats Off to Reading” day, special guest community readers, and a big “Valentine’s Day Book Reveal.” Roane County immediately saw how **ODOB** could bring its families even more reading excitement. After reading *The Trumpet of the Swan* their first year, they were able to gain Title I funding to read *Shiloh*, which is set in their home state of West Virginia. The experience was highlighted by a visit from author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, who spoke at each school and provided signed labels for every book. Roane County just concluded its 2013 selections, *The World According to Humphrey* for the elementary schoolers, and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* for newly included middle school students. The Roane County reading team is now choosing their books for 2014!



## AASA Conference in Nashville

**Read to Them** founder Gary Anderson and Executive Director John Dwyer congratulate one of our raffle winners, Edwin C. Nichols, Jr. (center) of Decatur City Schools, AL. Edwin went home from the February gathering with 38 of our favorite children’s novels. Bet he’s busy reading them now and picking out his favorite to present to his district for *One District, One Book!*

## *One District, One Book and Title I*

Parental involvement has always been a centerpiece of Title I...

The Title I statute defines parental involvement as the participation of parents in regular, meaningful, two-way communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. Promoting parental involvement ensures that:

- parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school

As indicated by the parental involvement provisions in Title I, Part A, the involvement of parents in their children's education and schools is critical:

*SEAs (State Education Agency) must encourage an LEA (Local Education Agency) and its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds to offer family literacy services if the LEA or school determines that a substantial number of Title I, Part A students have parents who do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent or who have low levels of literacy. Title I, Part A funds can be used to support the full range of family literacy activities.*

Schools and LEAs must provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their student achievement. They may provide literacy training for parents, if necessary, and can use technology to foster parental involvement. Other examples of activities that might be provided include:

- literacy programs that bond families around reading and using the public library
- providing information about the essential components of reading instruction to enable parents to support the instructional practices used by the teacher



A large body of research demonstrates the benefits that emerge when family literacy is actively promoted in a community:



Children increase their general knowledge and score better on intelligence tests.

Children perform better academically, attend school more regularly, and are more likely to complete their education.



Children's social skills, self esteem, and attitude towards school improve.



Children experience improved mental and physical health.



Schools that participate in *One School, One Book* and *One District, One Book* are community leaders in promoting family literacy.