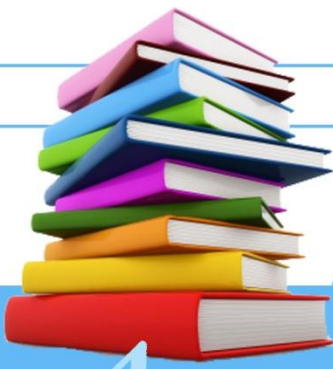


SPRING 2015



Read to Them

Creating a culture of literacy in every home

Read to Them Partners with the AASA

Read to Them is proud to announce a historic partnership with the American Association of School Administrators (the AASA). Read to Them is now an official AASA School Solutions partner.

Among the AASA's goals are to help their districts improve student performance and to introduce lasting, impactful solutions. Read to Them's vaunted *One District, One Book* program, premised on our unique strategy to develop family literacy in every home, is a perfect fit.

Read to Them's founder, Gary Anderson, explains that "RTT's partnership with the AASA is a 'win/win.' It's a wonderful thing when the home, the school, and the community have regular engagement around one book. The superintendents are the voice of the children in their community, and together we create a culture of literacy."

In the last three years, more and more school superintendents have recognized the value of Read to Them's *One District, One Book* program in developing family literacy and in increasing parental involvement in elementary schools. These superintendents recognize the impact *One District, One Book* is making in their districts. When they see the enthusiasm and excitement a shared, community approach to reading can generate, they want to tell about and share their experience.

Look to this space to see, hear, and read more about the fruits of our new partnership with the AASA and the growth of *One District, One Book*. With their help, we can create a culture of literacy in every home.

In This Issue

- Dallas Cowboys read more than playbooks
- Skype chat with author Wendy Orr in Beaverdam
- Willy Wonka makes an appearance at Monrovia
- When life hands you lemons, go to war!
- Check out our new books!



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PROMOTING LITERACY

With Community Superheroes

How 'Bout Them Cowboys?

Bradfield Elementary Library Assistant, Bonny Urschel, invited her friend Dallas Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett to read the last chapter of their current *One School, One Book* story *The Cricket in Times Square*. They called it a "great ending to a fabulous *One School, One Book* experience." We couldn't agree more!



Oh What a Literacy Night!

More than 100 people attended Beaverdam Elementary's Literacy Night centered around their *OSOB* book *Nim's Island*. The festivities included arts and crafts, digital storytelling, tropical treats, games galore, and a Skype session with the book's author Wendy Orr! Sounds like a night the students will never forget!

That's the Golden Ticket!

Monrovia Elementary capped off its *OSOB* reading of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* with a showing of *Willy Wonka*. Research teacher Marianne Berlin even made a special appearance as the candy tycoon. She said the experience was "the most successful reading program we have attempted as a whole school!"



1, 2, 3, 4, I Declare a Lemonade War



J.C. Sawyer Elementary School Kicks Off Their Three Book Read with a Bang!



One of the most important aspects of a school-wide reading is students' engagement with a book, and J.C. Sawyer Elementary in Elizabeth City, North Carolina went all out for their *One School, One Book* Reading Night featuring *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies.

During the school's Reading Night, J.C. Sawyer Principal Chris Pullet challenged parents and staff to read aloud to children. And to show just how serious he was, he donned a giant lemon costume. They read together and took part in fun activities such as a messy lemon squeezing contest. The Reading Night was a hit. Pullet said, "We're pushing reading every different way we can and this is another good way to get parents involved."

This isn't the school's first success. Last year they read the *OSOB* book *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney. "As soon as we finished it," Pullet said, "the kids went crazy and tried to get the rest of the series." This led to the school's commitment to read three books this year as part of *Read to Them*'s acclaimed *Year Round Reader* Program. Pullet lauds *Read to Them*, saying, "Reading together and engaging with a book helps build that sense of community in a school. Our attendance is better and our tardies go down when we're reading these books."

Through *Read to Them*'s programs, Pullet hopes to expose students to new authors and encourages them to finish the book series with their families. "We've had kindergarten and first-grade parents buy the rest of the books in the series and read them to their kids," he said. Sounds like Chris Pullet and his staff are well on their way to building better students and life-long readers.



Testimonials

Just finished up our month long *One School, One Book* program. The response was amazing! We are already looking forward to our next book!

-Jan Wise, Principal

The *OSOB* program is brilliant! My seven-year-old attends Orleans Elementary in Massachusetts. We read *Masterpiece* by Elise Broach.

-G. Krzeminski, Parent

@mmuzehr: *Read to Them* is the BEST organization for improving literacy!!! via @1school1book
-Mary-Margaret Zehr Assistant Superintendent

The *ODOB* program is a powerful way to promote a culture of literacy throughout the entire school system.
-Kenny Moles, Principal

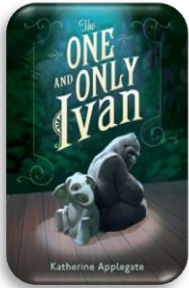
With 25 years of experience in the teaching arena, I've never come across a program that was so easy to plan, provide directives for, and implement.

-Katie Poe, Principal

Read to Them gave my struggling readers a wonderful opportunity to read an entire book and HAVE FUN!

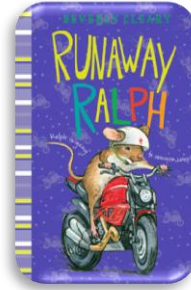
-K. Schultz, Parent

Our New Titles



by Katherine Applegate

Winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal and a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, this stirring and unforgettable novel inspired by the compelling true story of a captive gorilla named Ivan celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendships.



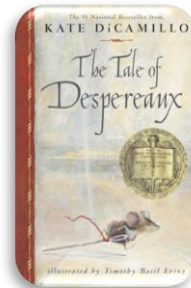
by Beverly Cleary

Beverly Cleary, a Newbery Medal-winning author, ramps up the humor and adventure in the second book in the Mouse series. Ralph S. Mouse is back, and itching to get away from his overprotective family, but once he "escapes" he starts to have second thoughts.



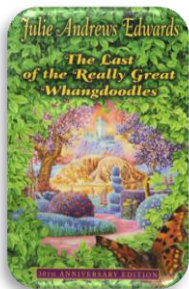
by Andrew Clements

Greg Kenton has two obsessions: making money and a long-standing competition with his annoying neighbor Maura Shaw. When Greg discovers she's cutting into his comics business with her own illustrated minibooks, he's ready to declare war.



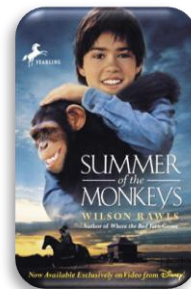
by Kate DiCamillo

The story of a mouse named Despereaux Tilling, and his companions, an idealistic rat called Roscuro and a simple serving girl named Miggery Sow and their adventures into a horrible dungeon, a glittering castle, and, finally, into each others' lives.



by Julie Andrews Edwards

The Whangdoodle was once the most extraordinary creature in the world until he disappeared and created a wonderful, hidden land filled with remarkable animals. Now Professor Savant and his three young friends are on a search for the spectacular creature.



by Wilson Rawls

The last thing fourteen-year-old Jay Berry Lee expected to find was a tree full of escaped circus monkeys. And though there was a reward in store for anyone who could catch them, at the end of the summer, Jay Berry Lee didn't get the reward he expected.

Meet the



The AASA, the School Superintendents Association, was founded in 1865 and includes more than 13,000 educational leaders throughout the world.

AASA members advance the goals of public education and champion children's causes nationwide.

For more info, check out: AASA.org