



Events

April 25th
Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Paul Spain & the Philippines RFE Team

Subject: The Philippines Rotary Friendship Exchange Team

Birthdays

Rachel Cardwell

May 1st

Tara Messner

May 2nd

Jessica Torres-Baltazar

May 3rd

Lawnae Hunter

May 5th

Diana Trout Barker

May 7th

Clifford Evelyn

May 8th

Mathew Free

May 20th

John Meyer

May 23rd

Janice Burges

May 23rd



This Week

This week's luncheon meeting will feature a Rotary Friendship Exchange presentation, led by Paul Spain with visiting Rotarians from the Philippines: Dialita Jardeleza, Melinda Doctora, Analyn Tocogdoy, and Neptune Pittman. Please reply to: rotaryredmond@gmail.com if you are attending and let us know if you plan to invite a guest.

Greeters: Keever Henry - Darla Naugher - Jerry Wheeler

Gift of Literacy in the News

REDMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

For the love of reading

Redmond first-graders get their own book from Rotary literacy program

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

Books are being delivered to every first grade student in Redmond, thanks to the local Rotary Club's Gift of Literacy program.

Funds for the program came in part from donations from Hayden Homes and Selco, as well as the Rotary Foundation and member contributions. More than 550 students will get books, including every first-grade student in the Redmond School District from Terrebonne to Tumalo. First-graders at St. Thomas Academy and Central Christian School in Redmond will get books as well.

The Rotary Club of Redmond's Gift of Literacy program is in its fifth year. Since its inception, the program has delivered more than 2,750 books to primary students throughout the Redmond area. Similar book donation projects are spearheaded by Rotary clubs in Bend and in Sisters.

See Books / A5



Courtesy photo

Every first-grade student in the Redmond School District received a book, thanks to the Redmond Rotary's Gift of Literacy program.

Books

Continued from A1

"The Gift of Literacy project aspires to show students how important literacy and life-long learning is in Redmond,"

book they want to keep and take home with them. The Rotary Club then purchases the requested books and preps them for distribution.

"We are proud to support Redmond Rotary, and to help provide the gift of reading to the

ing this successful program for years to come.

This year's book selection included "My Dog Just Speaks Spanish" by Andrea Caceras, "Wepa: English & Spanish" by J De La Vega, "Skater Cielo" by Rachel Katstaller "Dark on

said Janice Burges, president of the Rotary Club of Redmond. "We're creating a culture of reading and learning that we hope will have an impact on the lives of these students forever."

On April 7, dozens of members of Redmond Rotary met in Eagle Crest to organize the hundreds of books ordered by primary-school teachers. Rotarians gathered to write each student's name in their own book, then packed them into backpacks and finally into boxes ready to be delivered to classrooms.

Students across the district are now receiving their special book and backpack at events like the one April 10 at Sage Elementary, during which Hayden Homes employees and Redmond Rotary Club members passed out books. High school students from the Interact Club at Redmond Proficiency Academy also attended and performed an interactive reading to the children. Other students throughout the district will receive their books over the coming weeks.

According to Burgess, a teacher reads each of seven books aloud to their class. Each student then gets to pick which

deserving first graders of the Redmond School District region," said Deb Flagan, Hayden Homes vice president of community engagement and giving.

Research shows that literacy is a gateway skill that must be encouraged and reinforced at a young age in order for children to be successful in their ongoing education. Rotary Club of Redmond aims to continue build-

Light" by Dianne White "Gustav is Missing! A Tale of Friendship and Bravery" by Andrea Zuill, "King Kong's Cousin" by Mark Teague and "We Don't Lose Our Class Goldfish" by Ryan T. Higgins

To learn more and donate to the program, visit www.redmondoregonrotary.com.

■ Reporter: 541-548-3203, ttrainor@redmondspokesman.com



Courtesy photo
Students and teachers, including members of the Redmond Rotary Interact Club, helped distribute the books to local students on April 17.

RPA Students Inspire Love of Reading



Redmond Proficiency Academy high school students recently brought reading excitement to local elementary schools through the Redmond Rotary's Gift of Literacy Program. The annual initiative provides every first grader in Central Oregon with a free book of their choosing.

A lively group of RPA theatre students, including Sam Maragas, Lee Miller, Kathryn Hansen, and Azure Neubauer, kicked things off with a dramatic reading and presentation of "King Kong's Cousin" for raptured audiences at Sage and John Tuck Elementary Schools.

Behind the scenes, RPA leadership students Gabbard Herring and Amelie Montgomery assisted Rotarians in sorting and packing the book collections. They were then joined by June Post, Sam Prather, Katy Nichols, Hailey Severson, and Audrey Price in distributing the books directly to the excited first graders.

"It was such a fun project to be a part of," said RPA Leadership Advisor Laurel Eberhart. "It's great to be able to visit elementary schools, get first graders excited about reading, and engage with the community." The students' energetic efforts successfully stoked the love of literature for a new generation of Central Oregon bookworms.

