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BookSpring Events Kick Off 2010 Read-A-Thon: Local Dignitaries Participate in “Read-In” Gullett Elementary Reads to Keep Trophy for 5th Year

Local dignitaries and community leaders will dust off their favorite children’s books to showcase the importance of reading during the BookSpring Read-In while students at Gullett Elementary will get fired up to read and retain the top school trophy for the 5th consecutive year of the BookSpring Read-A-Thon.

The Read-Ins, held at Zavala and Andrews Elementaries on January 22 are part of BookSpring’s 2010 Read-A-Thon presented by Howdy Honda.

Guest readers at Zavala Elementary include: Police Chief Art Acevedo, State Representative Mark Strama, Former Manager of the NASA Mars/Moon Exploration Programs Dr. Humboldt Mandell, Jr., ‘Humolosopher’ Mary Gordon Spence, Austin Aztec soccer player Michael Callahan, KXAN Anchor Leslie Rhode, and Austin Ballet Executive Director Cookie Ruiz.

Guest readers at Andrews Elementary include: Municipal Court Judge Olga Seelig, Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton, Austin American Statesman Reporter/Writer Andrea Ball, State Representative Dawnna Dukes, Mix 94.7’s JB and Sandy’s Sarah Osburn, American novelist/screenwriter/journalist Sarah Bird, and Community leader and talk host Michael Lofton.

Readers visit and share favorite books with Zavala and Andrews students throughout the day in the school libraries. The Read-Ins provide students a unique opportunity to interact with Austin’s civic leaders as they share the importance of reading in their lives.

On January 22, Kay Gooch, librarian at Gullett Elementary, inspires students to read as much as they can to help our community’s most vulnerable children become successful readers. In 2009, the Gullett community raised over \$20,000 and read over 148,000 pages to benefit BookSpring’s literacy services.

Over 33 area schools are registered to participate in the 2010 Read-A-Thon. This year the Read-A-Thon is also open to any community group – book clubs, corporations, youth groups or individuals – wishing to support young children and their families through BookSpring’s early literacy programs.

An annual event aimed at encouraging reading and promoting community service for Austin-area students, the Read-A-Thon will be held this year from January 25-February 5. Proceeds support BookSpring’s early literacy programs, to include Reading Is Fundamental and Reach Out and Read, in 29 AISD schools, 13 preschools, 5 high schools, 25 medical clinics, and through the parenting programs of 6 nonprofit partners in the Greater Austin area.



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Event Details:

January 22, 2010

- Andrews Elementary located at 6801 Northeast Drive in library
9:00 Olga Seelig
9:45 Andrea Ball
10:30 Greg Hamilton
11:15 Dawnna Dukes
12:00 Sara Osburn
12:45 Sarah Bird
1:30 Michael Lofton

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- Zavala Elementary located at 310 Robert Martinez in library
9:00 Mark Strama
10:00 Art Acevedo
10:45 Humboldt Mandell, Jr.
11:30 Michael Callahan
12:15 Mary Gordon Spence
1:00 Leslie Rhode
1:45 Cookie Ruiz

Contact: Mindy Gomillion, 585-9035

- Gullett Elementary School Kick-off and Assembly
Location: Gullett Elementary 6310 Treadwell
Time: 7:40 am in school cafeteria
Contact: Donna Emery, 914-2372

About BookSpring:

BookSpring, created from the merger of Reading Is Fundamental of Austin and Capital Area Reach Out and Read in March 2008, instills children with a love of reading and promotes books as a means to success. By offering a range of programs that support early literacy, BookSpring champions the value of reading and encourages parents to read to their children from birth on, resulting in stronger families and increased life-long opportunities for every child. For more information, visit www.bookspring.org.