
GOING FAR WITH AR
Moulton Branch Elementary School
Valdosta, Georgia

Throughout the year, we scheduled opportunities for our students to “show off their reading” by having parents, grandparents, and community readers participate in our Accelerated Reader (AR) program. Students took home fliers announcing the event. Parents used a tear-off section on the flyer to R.S.V.P. At the scheduled time, parents came to the Media Center with their student, listened to him/her read an AR book (or read to the student if needed), and observed as the student took an AR test on the book he/she read. After the test, everyone enjoyed refreshments, which were purchased by Title I and SIA parent involvement funds.

The year started off with Goodies for Grandparents. Students invited grandparents or substitute grandparents to the school for reading and cookies and soft drinks. We served muffins and juice at Muffins for Mom, and doughnuts and juice at Doughnuts for Dads. On Valentine’s Day, students invited a “special” person to read with them. Some of our community readers paired up with students who usually do not participate in these activities. Our community readers included residents from a local retirement home, employees of one of our community partners, and several high school football players.

In early spring, we had an Accelerated Reader Pancake Supper hosted by the Action Team for School, Family, and Community Partnerships. Parents purchased tickets for the pancake meal, with proceeds going toward the purchase of more Accelerated Reader books. Either before or after enjoying the pancake meal, parents and students spent time reading and taking AR tests. The Action Team cooked more than 1200 pancakes and sausages—donations from local businesses and community partners.

Students leaving and returning to class presented a challenge for teachers. They solved the challenge by planning lessons for these days that allow interruptions. We also solved the problem of notifying students to go to the Media Center when their parents arrived by using other students as “runners.” For their work, helpers were “paid” with a pizza lunch or ice cream.

Attendance at Muffins for Mom and Doughnuts for Dads increased significantly from the previous year. Students increased the number of AR books that they read this year, easily passing our goal of 51,000 books.

Lavonne Powell, Facilitator

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