
COMMUNITY READER DAYS

Edwin P. Hubble Elementary Accelerated School

Marshfield, Missouri

Hubble Elementary decided to implement Community Reader Days to strengthen parent and community involvement focused on improving student performance on the Missouri Assessment Program. Hubble hoped to create a mutual commitment between the school and the community to increase student reading achievement and promote the importance of reading as a lifelong skill. For Community Reader Days, community members were invited to the school four times a year to read to students in kindergarten through second grade.

The Community Family Involvement Cadre and the office staff created a list of business and community members that might be interested in participating. Once the list was complete, over 100 potential volunteers received a letter of invitation in the mail. Those that were interested signed up to read in a classroom. The librarian selected books and made them available to readers in advance. Volunteers read from 8:30-8:45 am. Afterward, they received refreshments and a sticker that said, “I Read at Hubble Elementary.”

The Cadre publicized Community Reader Days through personal invitations, word of mouth, phone calls, and the school newsletter. A thank-you note was printed in the local newspaper. It helped to start with more businesses and organizations than necessary to ensure that enough volunteers were

available. As word spread about Community Reader Days, people called to see if they could volunteer. Many times, classrooms have more than one reader.

After one year of Community Reader Days, the Cadre sent a survey to teachers, parents, businesses, and organizations to evaluate the program. The Cadre used the feedback to make improvements. Students loved having special readers in the classrooms. They have seen that all types of jobs require reading and that all types and ages of people read every day. A business owner commented that he loves coming to school and enjoys watching the kids’ faces as he reads. “Be sure and invite me again,” said a school board member. The school staff felt a stronger bond with the community. According to a classroom teacher, “It is so fun to watch the kids interact with the reader; the reader really seems to enjoy the time spent at school.”

The Cadre plans to ask business and community members to donate refreshments and advertising to reduce costs. In return, the school will display signs saying, “This Community Reader Day is sponsored by . . .” With this support, Community Reader Days will continue to encourage students to read.

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