

# Reading Rumpus

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*Webster Stanley Elementary School  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin*

**W**hat is one way to boost families' knowledge and excitement about literacy? Have an adult dress as a monster, and invite an NFL quarterback to speak about the importance of reading. The Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) at Webster Stanley Elementary capitalized on this answer and hosted a *Where the Wild Things Are*-themed Reading Rumpus.

Students and parents from grades K–5 came to school on a Friday night to participate in literacy-related activities and rub shoulders with Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Attendees started the evening by rotating among six literacy centers, including literacy games, reading with a parent, and creating a storybook and puppet.

The second hour of Reading Rumpus started with an adult dressed as a monster reading *Where the Wild Things Are*. Aaron Rodgers took the field after the read-aloud. He spoke about the necessity of literacy skills in everyday situations, such as reading the playbook before a big game. After his speech, Mr. Rodgers answered questions, took pictures, and signed autographs for everyone. Reading Rumpus ended with every family receiving a copy of *Where the Wild Things Are* and enjoying milk and cookies.

Webster Stanley's ATP planned Reading Rumpus as just one of the many Parent And Child Together (PACT) nights it holds each year. Organizing the event took several months, including many phone calls to coordinate Aaron Rodgers's participation. Local newspaper and radio interviews helped to promote the event, as

did school meetings, website announcements, and fliers.

The ATP used grant money to pay for this event. Parents, teachers, volunteers, and students helped make the activity a success by setting up, greeting, videotaping, and cleaning. Reading Rumpus was such a hit with the 180 attendees that the ATP at Webster Stanley is already set to make this an annual event.

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