



# FRIENDS' NEWS

Friends of the Surprise Libraries, Inc

March 2017

## Friends Grant Committee

In January 2017 Grant Committee Chair, Manuel De Leon, and Friends President, Alyson "Aly" Cline, attended the Dysart Principal's meeting and presented the process for Teacher Grants. This year the Grant committee added the requirement that the Principals concur with the teacher request. New on-line PDF fillable forms were posted to the Friends Web-site. Teachers, Reading Specialists and Coaches and Librarians were encouraged to request funding from Friends in support of their literacy and reading programs. As of March 31<sup>st</sup> Friends has donated \$27,169.22 in School Grants. This includes \$1,607.87 to the Dysart Community Center a local non-profit in support of their GED and Citizenship Programs. Friends has an additional \$7,310.77 approved and unfunded for a total of \$34, 479.99. Friends has also donated \$4,000 to Altrusa International, another local non-profit, in support of their GED program and STEM scholarships.

This year, Friends partnered with the City of Surprise Arts Commission to judge the more than 250 entries from 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students who competed in the Annual Bookmark Contest. Judges included members of the Arts Commission, local managers from Wells Fargo Bank and Friends volunteers.



Also new this year, the Surprise Library agreed to display all the entries after the winners were announced. The display is currently in the Children's section of the Surprise Library!



This year's winners of the Book Mark Contest had their award ceremony as part of the March 21<sup>st</sup> City Council Meeting.



"This is a great new partnership for Friends of the Surprise Libraries and the City of Surprise" said Alyson "Aly" Cline, President.

City of Surprise, Friends and the Surprise Library also partnered on the 2017 Surprise Literacy Challenge; sponsored by Councilmen Skip Hall (District #5) and John Williams (District #3). Students at local Public and Charter Schools within Surprise were invited to participate by completing a BINGO card with various tasks including getting a new library card (or having a librarian sign off if the student already had a library card) reading various kinds of books, referring a book to a friend etc. Students who completed a Bingo were awarded a Friends of the Library BOOK BUCK good for \$1

towards any book at Friends Place.

Students who completed a "Black Out" of all the squares had their names put into a drawing for educational rewards. One student won a kindle with others winning a book of their choice. 21 students were awarded books!

The teachers with 100% participation in their classrooms had their names put into a drawing. The winner was given the choice of a Kindle or a classroom set of books.

Ms. Beverly Mohaupt, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Cimmaron Springs Elementary School chose a classroom set of 35 books!



**Councilman Skip Hall and Ms. Beverly Mouhaupt**