



FRIENDS' NEWS

Friends of the Surprise Libraries, Inc.

April 2016

GRANT COMMITTEE SUPPORTS LOCAL SCHOOLS



Friends established a School Grant program in 2006 to support local elementary school libraries. In 2008 the program was expanded to include high school libraries. In 2015 Friends expanded the Grant program gain to include Reading Specialists, Reading Coaches and Teachers who are working to improve reading skills and literacy in their schools. Cimarron Springs elementary school created a Literacy team with each grade level having an advocate. Team leader Sharon Harrigan asked Friends for 10 copies of the book *40 Reading Intervention Strategies for K-6* students by Elaine K McEwan-Adkins. "Ten copies allow each member of the team to read and work from their own copy of the book", said Sharon. Since 2006; Friends has contributed \$190,236.44 to local schools. Friends Grant Committee meets monthly to review submitted requests.

Friends Supports Summer

Reading at Nadaburg Schools -

Nadaburg School District #81, located 15.1 miles North West of Surprise, is made up of two elementary schools; one in Whittman and one in the North West part of Surprise. The 940 students live too far away to participate in the Summer Reading Program held at the Surprise Library. This year James Scott, Director of Educational Services, wanted to provide the students a Summer Reading Program of their own. All that was needed was 375 new books to encourage the students to read. The bonus is if they complete the program, they get to keep the books for their own home library. "Friends was honored to be asked to help the students of this school enjoy reading this summer" said President Aly Cline.

FRIENDS AND DYSART WORK TOGETHER ON STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM -

Dysart District #89 expanded their Career Technology and Education Program and began a student intern program. 9 students were selected, with one selected to work with Friends as part of their journalism program. Andrea Amaro, a student at Valley Vista High School, is working with Friend's Board members with a goal of going on to get her degree in journalism at Arizona State University. Leslie Palumbo is the advisor who is leading the intern program District wide. "I am hoping to work with Friends again in the fall, expanding our interns into non-profit management and marketing in addition to journalism and social media" said Ms. Palumbo.