



Press Release

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CONTACT: Lindsay Ivins, Maritza Fairfield

PHONE: 909-445-1001

Lynwood Unified Summer School Students Bolster Reading Skills during Scholastic Literacy Event

Students receive free books, meet Clifford the Big Red Dog

Lynwood – Students tugged at their parents' shirt sleeves, pulling them through a colorful, mountainous collection of 2,300 books piled high all around them in the Lynwood Unified School District Office on June 28.

These Lynwood Unified summer school students – more than 250 of them – had full access to pick out three books to take home as part of the District's inaugural Scholastic Literacy Event, where parents, guardians and District personnel encouraged students to always maintain strong literacy skills.

"It all starts with reading – it is the foundation for learning," Lynwood Unified Director of Equity and Literacy Event coordinator Patricia Brent-Sanco said. "A child's life can open up when they open a book, and you must learn to read to qualify for 21st-century careers. We want to get students and their parents excited for reading so that it will always be an integral part of their lives."

Almost 200 parents and guardians accompanied their children to the event, taking pictures with Clifford the Big Red Dog and listening to stories from District staff about learning to read and the importance of literacy.

"I really love books, so it was fun for me and my family to come and pick up some new ones," incoming Hosler Middle School seventh-grader Susana Zelaya said. "I was surprised at how many good stories there were to choose from."

Librarians from Lynwood Unified school sites assisted students in selecting their books. Students were able to pick out one book that correlated with their grade-level learning curriculum, and two fun tales like the "How do Dinosaurs Say Good Night," "Olaf's Night Before Christmas" from Disney's "Frozen," and "Shake to Assemble" featuring Marvel's Hulk.

All 2,300 books were donated by Scholastic, Read Lead, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Lakeshore Learning and Feed the Children.

"This truly was a community-focused event, and we were all thrilled to see so many students and parents here," Lynwood Unified Superintendent Gudiel R. Crosthwaite said. "This was only our first time doing this event, so I know next year will be even larger and will spread the importance of reading to even more students in Lynwood Unified."

Scholastic Literacy Events are specially designed to empower families to support their children's academic achievement through interactive activities – giving them the tools and skills necessary to build a culture of literacy at home.

"It gives me the best feeling to see students get so excited about reading and learning," Lynwood Unified Board President Alma-Delia Renteria said. "Reading is fundamental for all learning, and this is a very important step for younger students to start their successful educational journeys."

MORE

The **Lynwood Unified School District** is dedicated to offering students a world-class education to prepare them for success in college and career in the 21st century. Under its Achieving Greatness Initiative, the district is realigning all aspects of its organization to strengthen and expand instructional programs, enrichment and extracurricular activities, and support system for students and staff. For more information, visit www.lynwood.k12.ca.us.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS

071017_LUSD_READ1: More than 250 Lynwood Unified summer school students on June 28 had full access to pick out three books to take home as part of the District's inaugural Scholastic Literacy Event, where parents, guardians and District personnel encouraged students to always maintain strong literacy skills.

071017_LUSD_READ2: Clifford the Big Red Dog joined parents and guardians in encouraging children to bolster their literacy skills on June 28 during Lynwood Unified's inaugural Scholastic Literacy Event at the District Office.

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The mission of **Lynwood Unified School District**, the cultivator of innovative thinkers, is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves his or her highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to the greater society through a unique system distinguished by:

- ★ People of great character who inspire and lead by example
- ★ The instilling of courage to be creative
- ★ The transformative uses of technology
- ★ Safe and clean environments
- ★ The honoring of all voices of our community