

# *Holly Springs - Motlow School*

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W. David Craft  
*Principal*

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Dear Emily,

Wow! What an exciting second year for the Holly Springs-Motlow Need to Read Book Club. We are incredibly proud of our book club members! The children read over 20,000 pages and earned \$907.67 in order to purchase 193 new books for children at the Spartanburg Children's Shelter. However, as the facilitators, what filled us with the most pride was watching our students learn how they can make a difference in the lives of others!

As teachers, we have watched as our students have become actively engaged in reading and sharing their love of reading with each other. We think that the opportunity to participate in the book club gave our students a way to express their love of reading. Participating in the club also gives students a way to put their love of reading to use helping others. We have also noticed that students not only become enthusiastic about helping those they don't know, but begin helping each other within their own learning community. The students exchange books and often can be heard discussing one or another of them in the class. One memorable moment this year was when the students were reading their biographies for book club. One young lady in 6<sup>th</sup> grade was reading about Harry Houdini and heard from other students that a girl in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, not participating in the club, was completing a project on the topic. When she was finished with the reading, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl made a point to find the 4<sup>th</sup> grader in order to give her the book. The two students also spent times within their academically gifted class discussing their thoughts about the fascinating character in which they were both now familiar. They had made a learning connection. As the students participate in the book club, they become a community of learners with a desire to help others. As educators, we understand the importance of making reading a positive and fun experience. In today's times, children don't often spend time just simply reading and seeing what adventure awaits your mind.

Another moment that was touching for us was at Barnes and Noble during the book buying. Many of the member's parents and siblings came and stayed for the event. The parents were recalling books that they had read to their children and the children were remembering books they had read with their parents. Many books were chosen because of good memories. More memories were created as the parents helped their students learn about giving and sharing with others. The children saw an example that reading is valued by their parents.

On the day of the book distribution, once again our hearts swelled with pride. Our students came to the Shelter along with parents and siblings. Several of the students and their families had gathered food and other necessities for the Shelter. These students wanted to continue making a difference. When the children from the Shelter arrived to choose their books, they were initially very shy. However, with a little encouragement and the treasure of the books in their sights, not only were the members actively engaged, but their younger brothers and sisters and parents were as enthusiastic about helping the children choose their books as well as reading the stories.

We are excited about the growth of THE NEED TO READ Book Club. The service learning, character building, friendship, and love of reading that brings children together to become caring and giving citizens teach invaluable lessons. We look forward to the new school year and Holly Springs-Motlow's continued partnership with the book club.

Sincerely,  
Leith Murph-Academically Gifted Teacher  
Christine Chapman-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher