

For Immediate Release

Teachers and students at Theodore Robinson Intermediate School are very lucky to have access to an amazing resource...a beautiful book room. This book room is filled with many books, all of which are organized by genre and lexile (reading difficulty) levels. Teachers depend upon the book room to find high-quality, high-interest books that their students can read while participating in a guided reading program.

Guided reading is an instructional approach that gives teachers an opportunity to tailor direct instruction to students' specific reading needs and to help deepen their understanding and processing of a wide variety of texts. During guided reading, the teacher guides and supports students as they talk, read and think their way purposely through a text.

The biggest challenge that teachers face, however, when implementing this type of program, is finding and purchasing a wide variety of high-interest books that can meet the needs of all of the students within one's class. Thanks to a \$1,000.00 grant from the Evansville Fund, teachers will now have a much wider range of books to select from when visiting the book room.

Reading Specialists Judy Strieker and Teresa Doyle traveled to De Forest, WI the evening of December 12 to attend the Scholastic Warehouse Book Fair. Due to the fact that all of the books were being sold at greatly reduced prices, they were able to purchase several hundred beautiful books, many of which are hard-covered and representing a wide variety of genres and lexile levels.

The grant money used to purchase these books was made available by the Evansville Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin. The Evansville Fund responds to our area's not-for-profit organizations wanting to start new, innovative programs, or expand current services and provides the greatest flexibility for addressing changing needs to advance the most promising, creative approaches to strengthening communities. Grants from the Evansville Fund have strengthened ties between generations and have encouraged community participation in the arts, education, environment, health and human service programs, and historical preservation. For more information about this program and how you can impact your community you can contact Jane Maldonis at the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin at 608-758-0883, 1-800-995-2379, or visit their website at www.cfsw.org. The Community Foundation serves Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Rock, and Walworth counties.

The thirty-two teachers and 418 students at Theodore Robinson Intermediate School would like to express their sincere thanks to all individuals associated with the Evansville Fund for their generous support of the book room. The books purchased with this grant money will inspire and motivate readers for years to come.

The accompanying picture illustrates the sheer joy and enthusiasm shared by TRIS students Gabe Hermanson, Ben Ploessl, Raegan Trunkhill, Mason Huff, Seth Maag, Jacian Peacock, Ashley Kramer, Sydney McHone, Deegan Kath and Ashley Belk as they unpack one of the boxes filled with the newly purchased books.

