

SMART reading is starting back up at Evergreen

SMART seeking reading volunteers

By Laura Mancuso
IVN Staff

Are you looking to make a difference in the lives of local children? SMART (Start Making A Reader Today®) is looking for volunteers to read just one hour a week with kindergarten students at Evergreen Elementary School. Volunteers are critical to SMART’s ability to bring the love of reading and learning to thousands of children across Oregon each year. You can help foster a love of reading in children, as well as provide them with books to keep and read with their families.

Volunteers have been at the heart of SMART’s work since its founding over 25 years ago, and are critical to the success of its mission.

The new volunteer site coordinator for the SMART program will be Tina Wright. When asked why she decided to volunteer for the job she said, “When I volunteered for a fiddle workshop at Evergreen Elemntary a year ago last fall, working with the young children, there was a delight. Every single child engaged in learning the music lesson for the day, even those who may have been quite a handful in a standard classroom. The school asked me at that time if I would co-ordinate the SMART program, and after some consideration, and a decision to be committed to the program and the kids, I finally am taking it on.

“You know, I really got involved because the kids need me. They need the adults in the Valley to care about them and to spend time with them. It can only make our Valley a better place to live.”

Wright thinks this is a valuable program that is easy to participate in: “It is simply adults reading to kids, one-on-one, week after week. A mentoring relationship blossoms, a child begins to cherish reading time and the world is a better place. It may sound corny but it’s that simple. The volunteers will have fun; the kids will have fun. It’s one hour, one day a week. And it will bring joy to many hearts.”

SMART is a statewide nonprofit organization that envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. They engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with Pre-K through third-grade children, providing a fun, child-guided experience that builds reading skills, self-confidence and a love of reading. Since 1992, SMART has steadily grown to become Oregon’s largest volunteer literacy program. In 2016-17, they served 10,500 children statewide with the help of 5,000 community volunteers. Children in the program receive 14 new books throughout the school year to keep and read with their families.

The annual surveys of SMART families and educators reveal:

- *Over 95 percent of SMART students consistently show improvement in measures of literacy development.
- *Ninety-six percent meet or exceed grade-level benchmarks in reading motivation.
- *Ninety-four percent exhibit more confidence in reading skills.

Wright explained that Evergreen’s program will run Tuesdays through Thursdays and that volunteers are asked to come to Evergreen around 11:30 a.m. and will be out at 12:15 p.m.

To learn more about this fun and rewarding experience, please contact your local SMART office at 541-734-5628, or visit the website at www.getSMARToregon.org.

According to Wright, if a volunter does not have a computer to sign up for the program, Evergreen will allow them to sign up on a school computer.



Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2018. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Jan. 24, 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter’s Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of ‘49.

On this date:

In A.D. 41, Roman Emperor Caligula, 28, was assassinated by members of the Praetorian Guard after a reign of nearly four years; he was succeeded by his uncle Claudius.

In 1742, Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.

In 1908, the Boy Scouts movement began in England under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1939, at least 28,000 people were killed by an earthquake that devastated the city of Chillan in Chile.

In 1942, the Roberts Commission placed much of the blame for America’s lack of preparedness for Imperial Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor on Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, the Navy and Army commanders.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1965, British statesman Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1975, the extremist group FALN bombed Fraunces Tavern in New York City, killing four people.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth’s atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida’s electric chair.

In 1993, retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 84.

In 2003, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was sworn as the first secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security.

Ten years ago: Congressional leaders announced a deal with the White House on an economic

stimulus package that would give most tax filers refunds of \$600 to \$1,200. French bank Societe Generale announced it had uncovered a 4.9 billion euro (\$7.14 billion) fraud by a single futures trader. Italian Premier Romano Prodi resigned after his center-left coalition lost a Senate confidence vote.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the lifting of a ban on women serving in combat. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee opened a hearing into President Barack Obama’s nomination of Sen. John Kerry to be secretary of state. President Obama appointed Mary Jo White, a former prosecutor, to head the Securities and Exchange Commission. New Orleans Hornets owner Tom

Benson announced he was changing his team’s nickname to the Pelicans for the start of next season.

One year ago: President Donald Trump moved swiftly to advance the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, signing executive actions to aggressively overhaul America’s energy policy and deal a sharp blow to Barack Obama’s legacy on climate change. The 89th annual Academy Awards nominations were announced; the retro musical “La La Land” received a record-tying 14 nods; eight went to eventual best picture winner “Moonlight.”

Thought for Today: “God gives us relatives; thank God, we can choose our friends.” — Addison Mizner, American architect (1872-1933).

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