

Harrison selected in national book giveaway

Cottage Grove elementary school one of two selected for new books



By Zach Silva
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New books are coming to Harrison Elementary School.

Last spring Harrison was selected by Picture Book Summit, an online conference for children's books that takes place this weekend, as one of two schools in the country that they will be donating some of their profits from the event to.

Harrison Elementary School was chosen along with Lincoln Elementary in New Britain, Connecticut because they are both Title I schools which means that they have high levels of students from low-income families. The schools will each be receiving 2.5% of the profits from the event which is estimated to be over \$1,000 dollars that will all go to new books for the schools.

In addition to being eligible, Harrison was also picked because of Kristin Ammerman who in addition to being a parent in South Lane School District also helps Picture Book Summit with their marketing. Last spring Ammerman approached South Lane about the idea of having Picture Book Summit give their donation to Harrison.

"She pitched to them this idea what if we had one school from the west coast and one school from the east coast and we could say we are helping kids from coast to coast," said South Lane Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens. "She just said do you mind if I gave you some data about kind of our homeless rate in Cottage Grove, our socioeconomic status in Cottage Grove. Do you think I could pitch one of our schools to them to see if they would be interested."

After pitching the idea to the conference, they approved and Har-

risson became one of the schools that they were going to help.

"We don't know yet how much money we're going to get back from Picture Book Summit. But their online conference is next weekend and so once that's done they will cut a check for us to buy books with it," said Bridgens.

Bridgens, who also teaches a video class at Cottage Grove High School, was also involved with the project when a group of his students made a video for the conference showcasing why Harrison will be a good home for the new books. The video showcased Harrison students showing that their current library is outdated and could certainly use some new books.

"They went through the library and they were finding books from the 1950s, the 1960s and just books that don't work for kids anymore," said Bridgens.

While Harrison will be the recipient, it is not to say that they are the only elementary school in the district that is in need of books.

"It's not just one specific school in our school district that needs books so that's a little tough because we want to be making sure that we get books out. But I think there is going to be a way for how to do that," said Bridgens.

One way is for Harrison to then give some of their books to the other schools to share the wealth of books in the district.

"We just want to try to help out all our schools because there is a need for all of our schools and it just so happened that Harrison was the one selected for this project," he said.

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PeaceHealth urges flu shot for residents

As flu season approaches, PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center echoes the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's recommendation that everyone age six months and older get a yearly vaccine against the influenza virus, commonly known as a "flu shot" or "flu vaccine." Cottage

Grove is hosting several walk-in flu clinics for adults on Friday, Oct. 6 and Thursday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. -- 1 p.m., and a clinic for children on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. -- 1 p.m.

"Getting the vaccine is especially important for those who are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications,

including young children, older adults, pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions or disorders," says Jonathan Rafael Lazaro, MD family medicine at PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center. "And, since the antibodies from the vaccine typically take about two weeks

to fully offer protection, getting one as soon as possible is critical."

Last year's flu season in Lane County saw a number of outbreaks in December and January, according to Lane County Public Health.

Call 541-767-5200 to make an appointment for your shot.

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