Book donation stocks Highland Hills library

HERMISTON HERALD

A group of third graders got first pick of a wide array of science books at the Highland Hills Elementary School library last Thursday.

"I knew some of them would be silly," said third grader Aria Keefauver, 8, who looked over one of the many new copies of "What Do They Do with all that Poo?" by Jane Kurtz.

An avid reader, Keefauver said she was excited about the books.

Hermiston-based Harley Swain Subaru donated the 150 books to the school, all of them science-themed, as part of a nation-wide corporate event in partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Next year, customer service representative Dawn Mathis said, the car dealership hopes to bring that same amount of books to smaller schools in the county.

"Rural schools don't always get a lot," Mathis said.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Third-graders Aaron Manning, left, and Noah Aparicio read the book "What Do They Do With All That Poo?" in the library at Highland Hills Elementary School on Thursday in Hermiston. The books were part of a donation of books that the school received from Harley Swain Subaru on Thursday morning.

Miranda Hunt, elementary school librarian for the Hermiston School District, said that the kids each picked out a book to take

back to their third-grade classroom library. The rest, she said, will likely be catalogued into the library.

"This donation is really

great, because library budgets are really small. It's really helpful they're willing to give to a community," she said.

Mooney appointed to state commission

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston School District Superintendent Tricia Mooney was nominated for appointment to the statewide Quality Education Commis-

sion by Gov. Kate Brown.

If Mooney is confirmed by the Oregon Senate next month, her four-year term will start on Nov. 25. She would replace

McMinnville School District Superintendent Maryalice Russell.

"I am humbled to be nominated. I think Maryalice Russell has been an amazing leader," Mooney said. "I'm excited to play a part and represent Eastern Oregon at a state level."

Mooney would work alongside former Hermiston High School English teacher and president of the Oregon Education Association, John Larson,

Larson was appointed to the commission last year.

Each biennium, the Quality Education Commission establishes the state's Quality Education Model, which lists K-12

education goals and expectations for Oregon's K-12

public schools. The commission then recommends how much funding state

would be required to meet those goals. Oregon legislature has never met the funding suggestions, and during the 2017-2019 nium, the actual amount of funding was \$1.8 bil-

lion requirement. The Oregon Education Association stated that the passage of the Student Success Act in May helped bring state funding for the 2019-2021 biennium "within reach" of the goal for the first time.

lion short of the \$10 bil-

West Park elementary celebrates star students

By JESSICA POLLARD STAFF WRITER

Three times a year, the Hermiston School District Breakfast of Champions honors a select group of elementary schoolers for the quality of their character, their school improvement and their academic achievements.

Tuesday afternoon, the 20 West Park Elementary School nominees — one from each class — had the chance to celebrate their own successes at a luncheon in the library.

Parents, families and teachers were invited to attend. "These kids need to be celebrated," said teacher Marci Wattenburger, who coordinates West Park's Breakfast of Champions.

Third-grader Emmanuel Angel, 8, was one of the students recognized. He said he wants to let second-graders know that third grade is "harder than second grade, and you'll have to learn fractions."

West Park Elementary School is this October's spotlight school for the Hermiston Herald.



Staff photo by Jessica Pollard Edeline Rojas, 9, was a nominee for the Breakfast of Champions at West Park. She said she loves helping her friends learn math.



Staff photo by Jessica Pollard Pedro, 9, was nominated for Breakfast of Champions this fall. His favorite thing about school is learning. West Park staff said he works hard and has a solid

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attendance record.



Staff photo by Jessica Pollard Third-grader Emmanuel Angel, 8, pictured with his mom, was nominated for the Breakfast of Champions at West Park.

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