

Celebrate Read Across America on March 2

By Erin McCusker
For Go! Magazine

UMATILLA COUNTY — As the days get longer and sunnier, the snow melts and the bulbs start to send up shoots, libraries in the Umatilla County Special Library District are starting to plan programs and events for warmer weather.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

On March 2, the National Education Association's Read Across America Day will be celebrated nationwide. Here in Umatilla County, readers of all ages, parents, teachers, librarians and elected officials are doing their part to deliver the very important reading message: Kids who read, and who are read to, do better in school, in their communities and in life.

Launched in 1998 as a way to get children excited about reading, NEA's Read Across America has grown into a year-long program that culminates every year on or around March 1.

As a parent and librarian, I have seen the power of children being read to and having their own books to read. I encourage everyone to find a way to share a book. Whether it is donating books to the local library, joining a book club or encouraging your own children to pick up a book and read, everyone can do something on March 2.



Erin McCusker is the director of the Umatilla County Special Library District.

For more information about NEA's Read Across America, including resources, recommended book titles and ideas for reading events, visit www.readacrossamerica.org. For events in your community, check with your library and your schools.

C. S. JACKSON HISTORICAL GRANT FOR LIBRARIES

In the mid-1940s, the Charles Samuel Jackson family established a trust for the ongoing purchase of books and other historical memorabilia for the Umatilla County Library. When the county library was no longer in effect and the Umatilla County Special Library District was cre-



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ated by voters in the county, this trust was passed on to the UCSLD.

The Umatilla County Historical Society and the Oregon Community Foundation distribute the funds in reimbursement to the UCSLD. Each year, the libraries can spend approximately \$200 to \$300 on items about the history of Oregon, Eastern Oregon and Umatilla County. This grant has allowed the libraries in the district to highlight Oregon history for all ages.

Libraries are currently creating their lists this year. Contact your library if you have a request.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

And one of the biggest events of our

year in libraries is the Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path." We are hard at work planning a fun summer of adventures in reading. Stay tuned for more on what's coming up for the summer.

But first, enjoy the spring. For information on any of these events and more, call or stop by your local library or find a contact link at www.ucslid.org/our-libraries. And on March 2, "Read Across America" with your favorite readers.

Erin McCusker is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Reach her at 541-276-6449 or director@ucslid.org.

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