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Emery Park Elementary Celebrates “Reading is Magic:” Community Leaders Read Aloud to Enchant Young Readers, Encourage Literacy on February 28, 2019

“In the richly multicultural, multilingual global haven that is Alhambra USD, there is an education-first, student-centered community spirit that embraces the concept of it-takes-all-of-us to help students flourish.” – Principal Jeremy Infranca

The Scene on February 28, 2019...

Alhambra, CA — It is still early but the morning leaps to life as the K to 8th grade Emery Park students spot Principal Jeremy Infranca dressed in Harry Potter garb. They are thrilled, laughing as they shout their guesses about which character Mr. Infranca is supposed to be. Hogwarts, members of Dumbledore’s Army and the Department of Magical Games can be seen walking the school hallways.

Part of the annual Community Read-In, the beloved Emery Park “Reading is Magic” event is set for February 28, 2019, — this year with a Harry Potter theme. The school staff dress as book characters and visitors arrive to read aloud to the students. Emery Park is dedicated to instilling a love of words and reading in its students, 80% of whom are Latino with almost 20% are English Learners.

WHAT: “Reading is Magic” Community Read-In Celebrates the Joy of Reading

THEME: Harry Potter books which explore the power of friendship and choosing to do the right thing and include lessons about diversity, acceptance, political tolerance and empathy

WHERE: Emery Park Elementary
2821 West Commonwealth Avenue
Alhambra 91803

Principal Jeremy Infranca
626-943-3340

Bilingual English and Spanish staff and students can talk about what the Community Read-In means to Emery Park

EFFECTS: Emery Park staff dress as Harry Potter characters to add to the magic of the day for students

WHEN: Thursday, February 28, 2019
8:30 am to 9:30 am: Reading in classrooms

WHY: Reading to young children sets them up to succeed. Reading to a child is a powerful secret to inspiring imagination, increasing vocabulary, developing curiosity, and creating thinkers.
Reading aloud increases literacy — much more than just talking to a child does.
Reading is the Foundation for Learning: Read to a Child

WHO: Community readers include:
Denise Jaramillo, Superintendent AUSD
Jane Anderson, Vice President, AUSD Board of Education
Joanne Russell-Chavez, Member, AUSD Board of Education
Tammy Scorcio, President, Alhambra Teachers Association
Fourteen Emery Park parents and Emery Park librarian

QUOTE: “In the richly multicultural, multilingual global haven that is Alhambra USD, there is an education-first, student-centered community spirit that embraces the concept of it-takes-all-of-us

to help students flourish. We are grateful for Emery Park's community partners and the hard work our staff, students and parents are doing together to promote reading and literacy."

— Principal Jeremy Infranca

The Community Read-In on February 28, 2019, is one example of this community spirit.

PARKING: In the staff parking lot off Meridian, just north of the campus

Did you know these benefits of reading to a child?

- *Reading to a child from an early age makes a real difference in a child's future.*
- *Reading to a child helps ensure they are able to read well by third grade.*
- *In third grade, students must be able to make the important transition from learning to read to reading to learn.*
- *The more you read to children, the more knowledge they absorb.*
- *Studies show that reading to babies and toddlers gives them a head start.*
- *Reading to a child develops their language skills and vocabulary. The more words a child knows the better.*
- *Reading books to children who speak more than one language is an easy way to help language skills and important to developing fluency.*

- *Reading together enhances a child's concentration, encourages a thirst for knowledge, helps to develop empathy, and builds a bond.*
- *Reading to young children sets them up for success.*
- *Reading together is one of the best ways to prepare and encourage a child to read and is the secret to literacy.*

*Reading is the Foundation for Learning
Read to a Child*

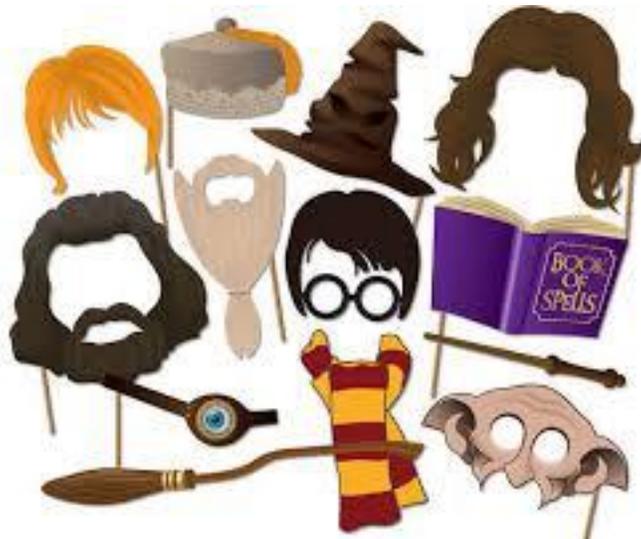
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CAPTION:

Emery Park Elementary Celebrates the joy of reading with “Reading is Magic,” is a Harry Potter-themed event that includes the school staff dressed as Harry Potter characters and community leaders as readers.

Superintendent Denise Jaramillo, AUSD Board members and ATA president Tammy Scordia as well as Emery Park parents will be on hand to read to K-8th grade students. The Wizards, 8th grade teacher, Ms. Ramirez, 5th grader, Michaela Aston, and office manager, Audrey Stering are ready and waiting on Platform 9 3/4 for the visitors on February 28th.



AUSD FEB 28, 2019 EMERY PARK READING IS MAGIC