

Perris News

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City Officials Read to Palms Elementary Students



Mayor Daryl Busch with the class of teacher Lilia Garcia

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, City Manager Richard Belmudez and other lovers of education took time out of their schedules this week to read to elementary school students and stress the importance of learning for life.

The mayor and city manager, along with members of the Perris Rotary Club, dropped by Palms Elementary School Thursday and read Dr. Seuss and other age-appropriate books to second-graders. The effort was the annual "Read Across America" which celebrates the March 2 birthday of author Theodor Seuss Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss.

"As you get older in life, you don't read less, you read more," Busch said. "As mayor, I read a lot of reports, a lot of documents. But if you read, you know. The person who benefits most from reading is the one who reads. If you read, you will learn a lot."

Busch read to a pair of classes. Teacher Amy Argerake gave him a book with a title sure to catch the attention of any elementary-age student: "The Principal from the Black Lagoon." The story was about a school administrator with an office that frightens lots of students. The mayor showed illustrations from the text as he read, the students paying keen attention as he turned the pages.

Afterwards, Busch spent a few minutes highlighting Perris attractions like the historic Downtown Depot, the Orange Empire Railway Museum and Perris Valley Airport, world famous for its skydiving activities. He urged them to visit the Perris Valley Museum at the Depot, which has a trove of the City's history as a train hub and the home of the most productive gold mine in Southern California.

At teacher Lilia Garcia's room, Busch also handed out business cards to the students.

"This is a great program because it gives the students the opportunity to talk to someone who is important in the community," Garcia said. "It's very exciting for them to meet someone so important."

City Manager Belmudez held a question-and-answer session with students in Fran Perry's class in between reading from Seuss's classic, "Green Eggs and Ham."

"How many book have you read?" he asked one student.

"Twenty," came the reply.

"That's pretty good," the City Manager said.

Another student volunteered that she had read 1,500 books.

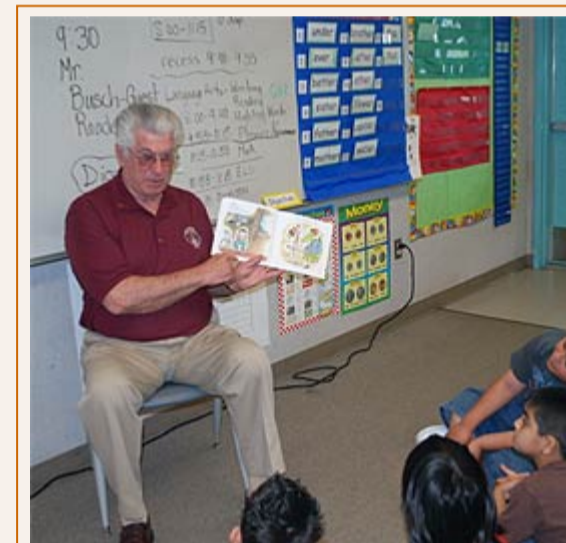
"That's a lot!" Belmudez replied.

He encouraged the students to read at home and on vacation to improve their vocabulary and knowledge.

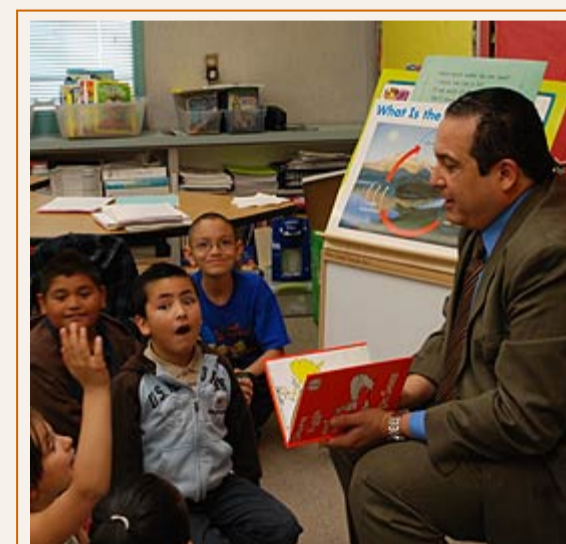
Student Jose Ruvalcaba Jr., said he likes to read because it's fun and informative.

"You can learn about other countries and learn something you may not have known," Jose said. Perry said she was thrilled to have someone who helps run the City appear before her class.

"It's great to see the students see adults who read," she said.



Mayor Daryl Busch reads "The Principal from the Black Lagoon" to Amy Argerake's second-grade class at Palm Elementary School.



Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez asks a question from Fran Perry's students at Palms Elementary School.

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