

## NEW MEXICO INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

#### INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

A group of NMIRA members visited the elementary school in Palomas, Mexico in September carrying school supplies, personal hygiene products, and some food items to enhance the learning experience for the students there. NMIRA has provided assistance to support the program in that school, visiting and delivering donated items once or twice a year, for a number of years. Persons interested in contributing to the effort may bring supplies or cash donations to the Annual Conference or the Delegate Assembly or any of the NMIRA Board Meetings.

#### LOCAL COUNCIL NEWS

##### GADSDEN COUNCIL

The Gadsden Council teamed up with students from New Mexico State University to make their Pajamas and Books Drive a success. Gifts were delivered to more than 500 children in Dona Ana County.

At one of their “tastier” meetings, Gadsden members enjoyed a cooking demonstration/class. Member chefs taught everyone to make fresh pasta and three different sauces.

##### OTERO COUNCIL

Otero Council is working on their Annual Young Author Program which recognizes student authors in school districts served by their Council. Young people receive medals and certificates for their excellent writing in several genre including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Students in some of the schools are treated to a visit from a professional author.

Otero Council continues to sponsor the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in their county. Through this program children from birth to age 5 may register to receive a free book each month.

##### GILA COUNCIL

Gila Council sponsors the Literacy Showcase, a young author program, in cooperation with the Deming Public School District. Student authors in grades Pre-K through Six are invited to submit original fiction, non-fiction, graphic fiction stories and poetry. Those selected as the best few on each grade level are published in a book for their school and the students are recognized at the “Showcase”. This year’s Showcase speaker will be storyteller Joe Hayes. Mr. Hayes will give presentations at the six elementary schools in the district as well as Deming Intermediate School. His visits are designed to inspire students to continue to develop skills in reading and writing.

Gila Council is also affiliated with the Children's Reading Foundation of Luna County. The group is involved in several programs to prepare pre-schoolers for success in kindergarten. They also provide books to pre-schoolers and elementary students through a variety of community functions.

#### CAMINO REAL COUNCIL

#### ENGLISH EXPO

February 22, 2014

La Cueva High School

English Expo is a program in which students in grades 6 through 12 compete in 24 contests in the Arts, Comprehension, Writing, Grammar, and Speaking. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 compete in the Junior Division while those in grades 9 through 12 are in the Senior Division. The deadline for registration is February 10. For detailed information contact Pat Graff at [Pgraff@aol.com](mailto:Pgraff@aol.com)

#### DONA ANA READING COUNCIL

The Dona Ana Reading Council has continued its tradition of donating books to children at risk via a "Books-in-a-Basket" program. This Thanksgiving and again at Christmas, the council collaborated with the Las Cruces Public Schools, the Las Cruces Public Schools Liaison for Homeless Students and Tresco Tots, a non-profit early intervention program serving southern New Mexico, on behalf of families in need. Families received turkeys and other food items in a gift basket. Age and language appropriate books for all identified children and their siblings were provided by the council. A Spring "Books-in-a-Basket" will also be provided to a new list of families in need.

The Dona Ana Reading Council has developed a Literacy Grant for its members, providing funds to support a literacy project in the classroom this semester. The award will be given in February.