



# RKC Reporter

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## *RIF Program ends 1st 2005-2006 cycle*

Students in four participating Rosemead schools received free books this month in connection with the Rosemead Kiwanis Club-aided Reading is Fundamental - Southern California (RIF-SoCal) program.

Founded in 1976, the national RIF program serves 3.3 million students nationwide in 16,500 schools - two thirds at risk of not meeting basic educational goals. Each school holds three reading oriented

'events' each school year. The events culminate in selection of a personal book by each participant.

Foundation for this school season's initial event was facilitated by Kiwanian Jan Mackay, who coordinated representation from the affected schools at an Inglewood orientation meeting on October 7. There production kits for RIF events, produced by Scholastic Magazine,

were distributed. Instructions were also given for selection and pickup of books from the RIF book depository in Commerce.

The four November Rosemead events represent the first cycle in this series. Collectively they distributed over 2000 free books. Each event and the degree of involvement was tailored to the resources and needs of the specific schools:

*(See 'RIF,' p. 2)*

Rosemead  
Kiwanis  
Club  
'Since 1945'

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## *School Principal Spotlights Autism*

C.P. Cheung, Principal of Temple Middle School and also a member of Rosemead Kiwanis, honored the Club on September 22, 2005, with an address based on the autism of his son, Robert.

Kiwanis is promoting both awareness as to autism's existence and sensitivity to the

severe difficulties it presents to individuals and their families.

Autism is not a single condition, rather what is termed a 'spectrum disorder.' This means including, but not solely defined by, symptoms such as 'difficulty in expressing needs, mixing with

others, and a preference for being alone.' It resembles but differs from other learning disability disorders. These include Asperger's Disorder and PDD - NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified ).

*(See 'Autism,' p. 3)*

**RIF (from page 1)**

Specific details for each of the schools included:

- **Temple Intermediate School:** 'Sustained silent reading' time for 15 minutes was held every morning during November in collaboration with the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team. Students reading the most books will be honored during a future Clippers home game half time event.
- **Muscatel Intermediate School:** Selected students from various campus groups joined in a Colonial-era themed activity on Wednesday, November 9th. It included Kiwanian Bob Bruesch, dressed as a peasant farmer, reading a story with other stations including butter churning, making straw dolls, and the playing of Colonial era children's board games.

- **Logsdon/Maryvale School:** the morning of Thursday, November 10, saw students turning out dressed in warm sweats with comforters and pillows. They lazed about on the gym floor, reading and eating a leisurely breakfast. Kiwanian Art Landing read aloud for over an hour to those interested. Desire was expressed for a summer edition of Kiwanian Elizabeth Landing's crochet class similar to that in the Kiwanis after school program.
- **Willard Elementary School:** Monday, November 21, saw classrooms and the schoolyard serving as "stations," with classes of students rotating between them. The stations featured costumed storytellers (including Kiwanian Bob Bruesch again), outdoor colonial games for children, crafts,



*Willard Elementary School students make butter as part of their November RIFSoCal event*

and food preparation. The final station featured the book choice.

All events at the four different schools included availability of a special focus edition of the RKC (Rosemead Kiwanis Club) Newsletter for parents devoted to the RIF program.



The next round of RIF events is slated for February.

Free digital copies of this RKC RIF Report are available by emailing Rosemead Kiwanis (KCRosemead@aol.com). The Report will also be available for download from the forthcoming Rosemead Kiwanis website.



Parents and others interested in helping with RIF may do so by contacting Jan Mackay (janmackay@aol.com).

**Autism (from p. 1)**

While incurable, autism is manageable in many cases. The key, C. P. stressed, is proper early diagnosis and intervention. Too often symptoms are seen as simply behavioral difficulties. Actually the autistic individual has a different perceptual view of reality. This leads to perceived deficits in verbal and non-verbal communication, and socialization and leisure play activities.

The key in working with autistic individuals is to bring them into a communicative state relative to others. Frequently music and the arts are helpful in this regard. In Robert's case this was done via poetry. C. P. is the author of a number of classic Chinese

poems and was able to use this medium to involve Robert in the process.

Robert has now written and had published his first book of poems; he is anticipating doing a sequel next year and a third in 2007. He also did a reading in September of this year before Arcadia's City Council at their request.

Autism occurs in approximately 22 out of every 10,000 births. It is usually diagnosed within the first three years of life. It is four to five times more prevalent in boys than girls. It affects up to a half million individuals in the United States, which is 1 in 300, making Rosemead's share

approximately 175. Commonly recognized characteristics of autism include behaviors such as rocking back and forth, hand flapping, lack of eye contact and laughing or crying without apparent reason plague autistic people. These behaviors can draw curious glances in public.

However, high-functioning autism victims may escape overt exhibition of these obvious traits. They have communication difficulties but are simply regarded as stubborn and anti-social because they cannot easily relate on common levels. In fact they simply see

(see 'Autism,' p. 4)

**Some famous individuals with learning disabilities, which may in fact have been high functioning autism or a similar condition:**

Alexander Graham Bell,  
Winston Churchill,  
Thomas Edison,  
Albert Einstein,  
George Patton,  
Werner von Braun,  
George Washington.

Source:  
[specialed.about.com](http://specialed.about.com)

## AUTISM RESOURCES ON-LINE

The December, 2004, issue of *Kiwanis Magazine*, (available online at <http://www.kiwanis.org/magazine/1204ftautism.asp>) contains a full length article.

The Mt. Olive Kiwanis Club at <http://www.mtolivekiwanis.org/resources.asp> has a review of Autism and other disorders.

A collection of materials is also available at <http://www.autism-resources.com/>

**Autism (from p. 3)**

the world differently and cannot easily function within common authoritarian style relationships. At the same time they exhibit extreme tenacity in the face of opposition..

The sidebar on page three lists a number of outstanding world figures. All were also regarded as being somewhat solitary and different from their peers — they marched to a drummer whose beat only they heard. They shared a common difficulty in accommodating to traditional education approaches.

But, in the end, they all accomplished great things. How? By finding alternative paths to their ultimate achievements in life.

Helping kids with autism find the path that is right for them is the challenge for parents with such youngsters.

**Farm/City Program Does 2005 Exchange**

Rosemead Kiwanis, in cooperation with other area Kiwanis Clubs, in October and November once again successfully executed its annual exchange of high school students. .

This year's exchange began in early October with arrival of approximately 40 students from the Tulare-Visalia area.

11 were housed in homes of Rosemead Club members. After a tour of the actual Universal Studios backlot they went to a special party at the home of Kiwanian Jan Mackay. The next day they went to Santa Anita Park, a newspa-

per plant, the Mosquito Abatement District, and a tour of Pueblo de Los Angeles.

A similar delegation reversed the process a few weeks later, although there was no direct Rosemead Kiwanis participation.

The Farm/City exchange program was founded approximately 30 years ago by Rosemead Kiwanian Frank Dinoto. It was originally intended to familiarize Key Club students with contrasting urban/rural areas of American life. The program now involves science and environmental instruction as a major focus..

**KIWANIS 'We Build'**

Over the years Kiwanis themes have included:

- **Business mutual aid**
- **Young Children**
- **Education**
- **Spiritual Development**
- **Economic Education**
- **Community Health and Recreation**
- **Developmentally Challenged**
- **Parent Education**

**KIWANIS AREA CLUB MEETINGS**

There are regular meetings of other Kiwanis clubs in our area, including those listed below. For current information see our Rosemead Kiwanis website under 'Meetings' at RosemeadKiwanis.org.

- **Alhambra**
- **Altadena/Crown City**
- **El Monte**
- **Montebello**
- **Monterey Park**
- **Pasadena**
- **Pico Rivera**
- **San Gabriel**
- **San Marino**
- **Sierra Madre**
- **South El Monte**
- **South Pasadena**
- **Temple City**

'Helping and changing the world—one person and one community at a time'