



RKC Reporter

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RIF PROGRAM STAGES EVENTS

Five Rosemead area schools, led by a literary circus at Willard, observed the second cycle of the 2005-06 RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program during February.

Willard School

Nearly 600 children at Willard Elementary School participated in a massive Literacy Circus on Friday, February 3, 2006. The event, coordinated by school Principal Jerlene Hales and her staff, led off the second cycle of Kiwanis-facilitated RIF

(reading is Fundamental) events in the Rosemead area for the 2006 school year, according to Kiwanis RIF coordinator Jan Mackay.

The event was co-sponsored by RIF - SoCal (Reading is Fundamental of Southern California), Rosemead Kiwanis and Nestles Foods. It featured PTA-provided Willett's Circus-Time Show under a circus big top tent. Also provided were a climbing wall, four bounce houses and game booths.

Central to the event were grade-level literacy games. Administrators of the games awarded a ticket to each child who completed the activity correctly.

Tickets were then used their tickets to buy various items. These included PTA-provided popcorn and silly photos, plus jumping time in one of the four bounce houses, or participation on the climbing wall.

(See RIF—p. 3

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TUTORS FROM DON BOSCO

.Don Bosco Technical Institute and the Don Bosco KEY Club are assuming an increased role in Rosemead Kiwanis sponsored after school program efforts. This growth was spotlighted at a March 30, 2006, luncheon held the Institute in lieu of the regular Thursday Rosemead Kiwanis meeting.

The luncheon was hosted by Michael Smith, Don Bosco Director of Admissions and Community Relations. It was the third in a series. Participating were student representatives of the Don Bosco KEY Club, National Honor Society and the California Scholarship Federation. Also in at-

tendance were numerous members of the Rosemead Kiwanis Club, representatives of the Garvey and Rosemead school districts, Southern California Edison, Woodcraft Rangers and the Don Bosco staff.

Prior Meetings

The meeting series began on December 15, *(See Don Bosco, p. 2)*

Don Bosco (from p, 1) 2005. It featured Don Bosco KEY Club Advisor Miguel Balauag and President Marvin Loh with members of Rosemead Kiwanis, the Garvey School District and the California Scholarship Federation. The result was several concrete proposals to assist students in the Temple Intermediate and Logsdon Schools, with possible extensions elsewhere.

Temple Intermediate Principal and Kiwanian C. P. Cheung at the time noted that “the opportunity for private school KEY Clubbers to assist in the public system was a pioneering and unique arrangement.”

An initial goal of ten algebra tutors for the Temple Saturday morning program was set. The program was implemented beginning February 11, 2006.

Additionally, commented Kiwanian Frank Dinoto at the time, “Don Bosco KEY Club members may also be afforded opportunity to be involved with the Builder’s Club activities at the three Rosemead Intermediate schools, plus reading and math tutoring at Muscatel

and help with physical education at Rosemead elementary schools.”

“They most certainly will be encouraged to more frequently attend Rosemead Kiwanis meetings and KEY Club District conventions involvement between the Don Bosco KEY Club and its parent sponsor (Rosemead Kiwanis) must be improved and intensified.”

This initial meeting was followed by Don Bosco inclusion in an after-school program review on Feb 9. This meeting, held as a Rosemead Kiwanis Toastmasters special event, included an overview of all Rosemead Kiwanis after school involvements as well as potential future programs.

Two Don Bosco KEY Club members were present. So were representatives from Girl Scouts, Woodcraft Rangers, Rosemead City Council, Rosemead County Library and several corporations.

Edison involved

James Beasley, Community Development Program Manager for Southern California

Edison, discussed utility employment opportunities at the March 30 luncheon..

He stressed the need for applicants with scientific, mathematic and business education. Within the next decade, one-third of Edison employees will be eligible for retirement; other utilities face similar employee needs.

As a result of his remarks it was suggested that Smith and Beasley develop a plan with faculty members, interested students, etc. This plan will focus on the education and volunteer experience needed for future employment with the utility and other industries.

Once a plan is established, Rosemead Kiwanis will work with them to extend the opportunity to Rosemead students. Edison volunteers and Don Bosco alumni also may be involved.

Edison Regional Manager Christine McLeod and Beasley will be coordinating Rosemead Kiwanis efforts to secure volunteers and assistance from Edison and other contacts.

Volunteer Ops

There is a critical immediate need is on Saturdays for additional tutors at Garvey, noted Dinoto, but other needs may develop. Among these is the new afternoon Woodcraft Ranger program on weekdays.

Pablo Garcia and Sergio Mendez from the Woodcraft Rangers reviewed the Ranger’s new involvement in the Garvey District’s after school programs (A detailed article on this topic was included in the January, 2006, *RKC Reporter*). A possible Rosemead Kiwanis objective is expansion of this program to include additional Rosemead schools.

In addition to Algebra, Don Bosco Electronics Instructor Gene Mylan and Cheung discussed an alternate method of approaching basic math studies. Don Bosco’s Smith also talked about the need to teach the basics of the various math subjects.

Rosemead Kiwanis committed to following and facilitating as possible the alternate method as it is developed. We also will offer **(see Don Bosco p. 4)**

RIF (From p. 1)

The Garvey District Food Services Department provided Dodger dogs, peaches, and carrots, supplementing the efforts of numerous volunteers..

The highlight of the event was the RIF book distribution, staffed by city council member Margaret Clark and Kiwanis volunteers Jan Mackay and Frank DiNoto (the latter assisted by his wife Mary Jane). In this event the children chose their own books and inscribed their names in the RIFSoCal-provided nameplates.

While delighted with the fun and games, Principal Hales also noted the seriousness of the project, explaining that, for many, the free RIF books are the first pleasure reading books they have ever owned.

Many of the children in the south part of Rosemead, she noted, live in difficult circumstances: grinding poverty, high neighborhood crime, institutionalization of themselves or their parents, and very limited English speaking ability.

"Reading is the one thing that opens the world and lets them

imagine other possibilities for the m-selves," she explained. "Whether or not a child reads for pleasure is a key predictor of whether or not that child will succeed in school."

Kiwanian and Garvey Superintendent of Schools Virginia Peterson was "amazed" at what the community was able to accomplish when everyone worked together. "Today," she noted, "is a day these children will remember for a long, long time!"

(A selection of pictures from the event is available on the rosemeadkiwanis.info website in a link from the archived February "breaking news" stories.)

Similar although less dramatic book distributions occurred in RIF functions at several other Rosemead area schools:

Logsdon School

"Reading is a Treat" on Valentines Day was the featured activity, of the February RIF event at Logsdon school, reports Mackay. It featured specialty ice cream sundaes that accompanied a read-in with

the students. Kiwanis Rosemead President Ernie Ayala, Past International President DiNoto and his wife plus prospective member Coralie Snell were among the readers at the limited enrollment semi-private school. They read age-suitable stories to various groups in the school gym prior to the book selection.

Sanchez School

The Rosemead District's Sanchez School grades 1-3 were surprise additions to the 2005-2006 RIF program. This was due to a shortage of age-suitable books for RIF at Muscatel Middle School. Sanchez faculty members fashioned an event entitled "'Got Books?" modeled after the "Got Milk" campaign of the dairy industry.

Principal Rosie Kohn and her staff invited parents to come and participate in the associated "Read Aloud" program. This activity featured readings in various classrooms. Participating readers included Rosemead Kiwanis President Ernie Ayala and Coralie Snell. Everyone

(See RIF, p. 4)

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**

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

(Don Bosco from p. 2)

to arrange a meeting with Smith, school administrators and others to discuss the implementation of the instruction of basics.

Dinoto noted that “ the study of basic (and advanced) mathematics is not only important in the science and technology, but it is extremely helpful in business, management and in many professions.”

Carol Williams, acting Principal of Logsdon school, indicated that Kathleen Leighton, Principal of Logsdon would be returning from maternity leave in May. From previous discussions with Kathleen, Logsdon students need assistance in computer operation and maintenance.

As Don Bosco school hours minimize opportunity for possible student assistance Rosemead Kiwanis will seek assistance from alumni and Edison volunteers.

Smith and Rosemead School Board President and Kiwanian Linda Clark-Molina agreed that women must be encouraged to become more involved in the science, mathematics and technology fields. Linda will provide a direct contact with Rosemead District schools, and will be our Committee’s main source to secure community volunteers.

Upon securing two volunteers to spend a couple of hours weekly, Muscatel Middle School is ready to organize a reading club (primarily to expand knowledge) and a math club. Edison, alumni and/or PTA volunteers can make these clubs a reality. The school and/or Rosemead Kiwanis will provide the materials.

(RIF—from p, 3)

attending dressed in black and white, the colors of a Holstein cow. The Kiwanis financial contribution purchased (what else?) milk and cookies for around 250 participating students

As with all RIF events the children picked a pleasure-reading book of their very own, put their own name in the bookplate, and took it home to keep. In a gracious footnote Ernie and the other readers received personal notes from the students describing the activity’s value..

Shuey School

Under direction of Coordinator Jennifer Kelly and with help of two San Gabriel Kiwanians a “Helpers in our Neighborhood” event was conducted as the February RIF activity. Various professionals participated, including five San Gabriel fireman with their truck who “accidentally” hosed down Ms. Kelly. Also involved were San Gabriel Postmaster and Kiwanian Dwayne Marcus, Pediatrician and Kiwanian Dr. Royce Foster, Sheriff’s Deputy Janet Bartholomew, and an un-

named college professor, all of whom read to the kids.

Temple School

Coordinator Mary Christian organized a concurrent “Community Read-in” in 15 classrooms of the Temple Intermediate School (TIS) as the February RIF function, reports School Principal and Kiwanian Dr. C. P, Chang. A different community leader served as a presenter/reader in each classroom. Each read questions and led an interactive discussion with support from the class teacher before adjourning for refreshments and book distribution.

“The students really appreciated the outside visitors coming as readers for this event” reports Dr Chang.

Readers included Garvey Superintendent and Kiwanian Virginia Petersen, Assistant Garvey Superintendent for instruction Anita Chu, Garvey School Board member and Kiwanian Bob Bruesch, and Rosemead Kiwanis President Ernie Ayala. Members of the TIS Builders Club (part of the Kiwanis family) supplied escort services.

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 Rosemead-Kiwanis.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