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**MARCH 3, 2022 -- March Into Reading with Books Across Stamford**

*33,000+ books will be distributed across 20 pre-k, elementary and middle schools in the district*

STAMFORD, CT/March 1, 2023 – In celebration of this week's Read Across America initiative, the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) and Reading is Fundamental (RIF) are presenting **March Into Reading with Books Across Stamford** this Friday, March 3. Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons and Senator Richard Blumenthal will join RIF President Alicia Levi, SPEF CEO Lindsay Wyman and Stamford Public Schools (SPS) Associate Superintendent Amy Beldotti to commemorate the special day.

Mayor Simmons and Senator Blumenthal, along with representatives from RIF, SPEF, SPS and the Ferguson Library will gather at Newfield Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. to mark the day. A group of Newfield students will witness the Mayor's declaration of Friday, March 3 as "March Into Reading with Books Across Stamford Day," followed by a few brief remarks and a read-aloud by a special guest reader.

Thanks to a generous Federal grant received through the collaborative efforts of SPEF and RIF, all Stamford Public Schools' students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade will have the opportunity to select three new books for their home libraries as part of this event. In all, more than 33,000 books will be distributed across 20 pre-k, elementary and middle schools in the district.



“Reading not only stimulates a child’s imagination but helps them develop important skills and an understanding of the world around us,” said Wyman. “We are extremely proud to spearhead the Books Across Stamford initiative and to have such incredible support from program partners like the City, SPS, RIF and Ferguson Library.”

Books Across Stamford is an engaging literacy program focused on motivating children to read and helping families build home libraries. Each year, SPEF aims to distribute 5,000 books throughout Stamford for children, pre-K through fifth grade. In 2022, SPEF and RIF received \$250,000 in federal funding, which will allow SPEF to dramatically increase the number of books distributed to Stamford school children this year. In total, 36,000 books will go to 12,000 Stamford students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, and 7,700 students will be granted access to RIF’s Skybrary, a digital library of books.

Founded in 1996, the mission of the Stamford Public Education Foundation is to elevate student success by delivering educational programs and solutions that promote equitable access to quality public education in Stamford.

For more information about SPEF and March Into Reading with Books Across Stamford activities, please call (203) 965-7733.

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