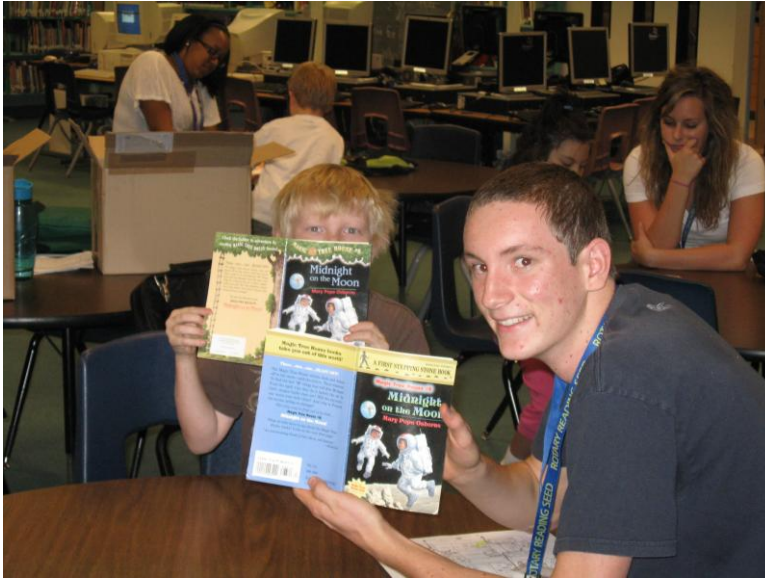


Reading Seed Children's Literacy Program

Helping children learn to read so they can read to learn.



Reading Seed is one of the beneficiaries of the Tucson Festival of Books.

Thanks to last year's proceeds, Reading Seed was able to begin a very successful pilot project with Aztec Middle College East and Lyons Elementary, both TUSD schools.

Reading Seed recruits, trains and places volunteer reading coaches with 1st through 3rd grade students

who have been identified as reading below grade level. Currently Reading Seed has more than 1,000 volunteers working with more than 2,000 children.

This pilot program began last fall and continues this spring. Each semester, 15 young people from Aztec Middle College East are spending an hour each week reading one on one with 30 children in primary grades at Lyons Elementary School.

This collaborative adventure was the brainchild of Sheila Govern, principal of Lyons. "I had a couple of wonderful reading coaches provided by Reading Seed in previous years," she explains. "They did such a great job, that I wanted more coaches. A lot more!"

Sheila was approached by Tim Flood, the lead teacher at Aztec, who wanted to foster a partnership between students at Aztec and Lyons. Working with Reading Seed made sense because Aztec students would be a great source of coaches and Reading Seed's excellent training would give Aztec students a solid foundation for their work with Lyons children.

Funding from the Tucson Festival of Books allowed Reading Seed to provide trainings and support on-site at Aztec Middle College in both the fall and spring, as well as provide necessary materials for the 30 additional children now served at Lyons Elementary. The pilot project has been deemed a success by all parties.

Thanks to this start provided by the Tucson Festival of Books, this project will continue next year and hopefully expand to other locations! Reading Seed is also a proud member of the Literacy for Life Coalition, another beneficiary of the Tucson Festival of Books. The Literacy for Life Coalition brings together literacy providers, educators in the school systems, the business community, local government and foundations with a goal of achieving 100% literacy through 100% community engagement..