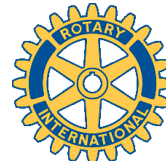




IRARI SIG



The ABC's of Literacy Ideas

International Literacy Day is September 8. What a great time to begin a joint, IRARI literacy project. Following is a list of possible ones. If you have others please share. These projects are big and small, local and international, easy to do and fairly complex. When Rotary and International Reading Association partner in these projects, they can more successfully make strides to teach the world to read. IRA has the literacy knowledge and the contacts with schools and educators around the country and world. Rotary has the volunteers and the motto: "Service Above Self." What a team!

A=Adult Literacy Projects-Check in with a GED program or program teaching second language learners, and offer your services to help an adult learn to read, prepare for taking their high school equivalency test, or pay for their GED test.

B=Backpacks for Literacy-Assemble backpacks for deserving students at local schools and deliver them the first week of school.

C=Cents for Books-Connect locally with a school or classroom and extend around the world. Local children will read a total of 1000 minutes of combined reading time over a period of time. The Rotary Club will donate 1 cent for every minute read to be used to purchase books for a school in a developing country. Local children will learn about the school and children the books will be sent to.

D=Dictionary Project-Dictionary projects are a popular way for Rotary clubs to promote literacy in their schools. Check www.usadictionaryproject.org.

E=Every Child Ready to Read-Join together with your local library in sponsoring a month of activities for Rotary's Literacy Month in March. Help sign up families for library cards.

F=Freeing Minds with Books-Collect books and CDs for inmates in the local jail. Follow their guidelines. Books free minds.

G=Global Book Share-A local Rotary club partners with a Rotary club in a developing country, and each find 3-5 teachers who would be interested in participating in a professional book share about teaching literacy. Books are purchased by the Rotary clubs and global school connections are assisted by IRA. The teachers communicate via internet.

H=Habitat for Humanity Bookshelves-Rotarians purchase a bookshelf and books for families moving into new Habitat for Humanity homes.

I=International Literacy Day Baby-Give the first baby born in your City, on International Literacy Day, September 8th, a baby backpack filled with books and a gift card for a book a month at a local bookstore.

J=Journal for Teachers-For approximately \$50.00 a Rotary Club can purchase a year's subscription to IRA's Reading Teacher Journal for a school library in a high need area in the U.S or in a developing country.

K=Kids + Books in Hospitals- Collect new or gently used books for children in hospitals to read while recovering from surgery or illness. Literacy can be used to relieve the fear, loneliness and pain of young hospitalized children.

L=Literacy Read Alouds-Rotarians can visit sick or disabled Rotarians or past Rotarians in their homes and read to them, including the Rotarian.

M=My Own Book-Rotary club adopts a Classroom and organizes monthly literacy activities. Get to know the students and their book interests. At the end of the year provide a book to each child based on what they like to read. Kick it off on International Literacy Day, September 8. This is similar to the project found at www.myownbook.net.

N=Nursing Home Read Alouds by Children-Once a quarter, round up children and grandchildren of Rotarians to read aloud to senior citizens at a local nursing home. This is truly a win-win experience for youngsters and oldsters.

O=One Book a Month for Babes-Rotarians work with the local Early Head Start Program to provide one book a month for approximately 10 babies who are high needs children. Literacy tips are provided for the parents.

P=Pillowcase Dresses & Books-Organize an assembly line party at a Rotarian home where members can make a bunch of pillowcase dresses. Each dress can be designed to coordinate with a donated book. Package together in a clear bag and send them to a Rotary club in Africa to distribute. They also have shorts for little boys. Patterns at: www.littledressesforAfrica.org

Q=Quality Quips-Rotarians work with a local bookstore to host a "hug a book" night for Rotarians. While there each Rotarian fills out a "shelf-talker" card personally recommending a book to read. These are displayed with the book in the store.

R=Room to Read-Rotarians can coordinate with the Room to Read program to transform the lives of children in developing countries by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. www.roomtoread.org

S=Speaking of Books-As a thank you gift to speakers at your Rotary Club, purchase a children's book for the local library based on the theme of the speaker. Have the speaker sign it, and donate to your local library, or school library.

T=Tree of Reading (Reading Tree)-During October, Closet Cleaning Month, follow Reading Tree to clean out your closets full of books and donate them to families that desperately want them. www.readingtree.org

U=Under the Tree Teacher Development Project-Partner with the Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club's Training Teachers in Southern Sudan Project. Ask us, or check out www.ccsoe.com/litcom .

V=Virtual Book Connections-Rotary Clubs can check www.epals.com where teachers and classrooms from around the world are looking for community connections for correspondence and global joint experiences.

W=Wild About Books-Rotarians can show up at schools during breakfast or lunch and just sit around and read some of their favorite children's books to kids.

X=Xtreme Read-In-Rotary members can organize a 2-3 hour Read-In at a library, school or community center where participants, including Rotarians, show up in their comfy sweats with pillows in hand and settle in to read books and enjoy snacks.

Y=Youth Connections-Partner with a classroom of teens who need books and motivation. Conference with the teacher about what members can do to motivate and build bridges of educational opportunity and role models for these students.

Z=zzzzzzBedtime Stories-Rotarians can create a special local phone number that is active between 6:30 and 8:30 PM, 2-4 nights a week, and plays short bedtime stories for kids. Rotarians, especially housebound members, can record favorite stories that can be available for children to listen to before bedtime via this line.