



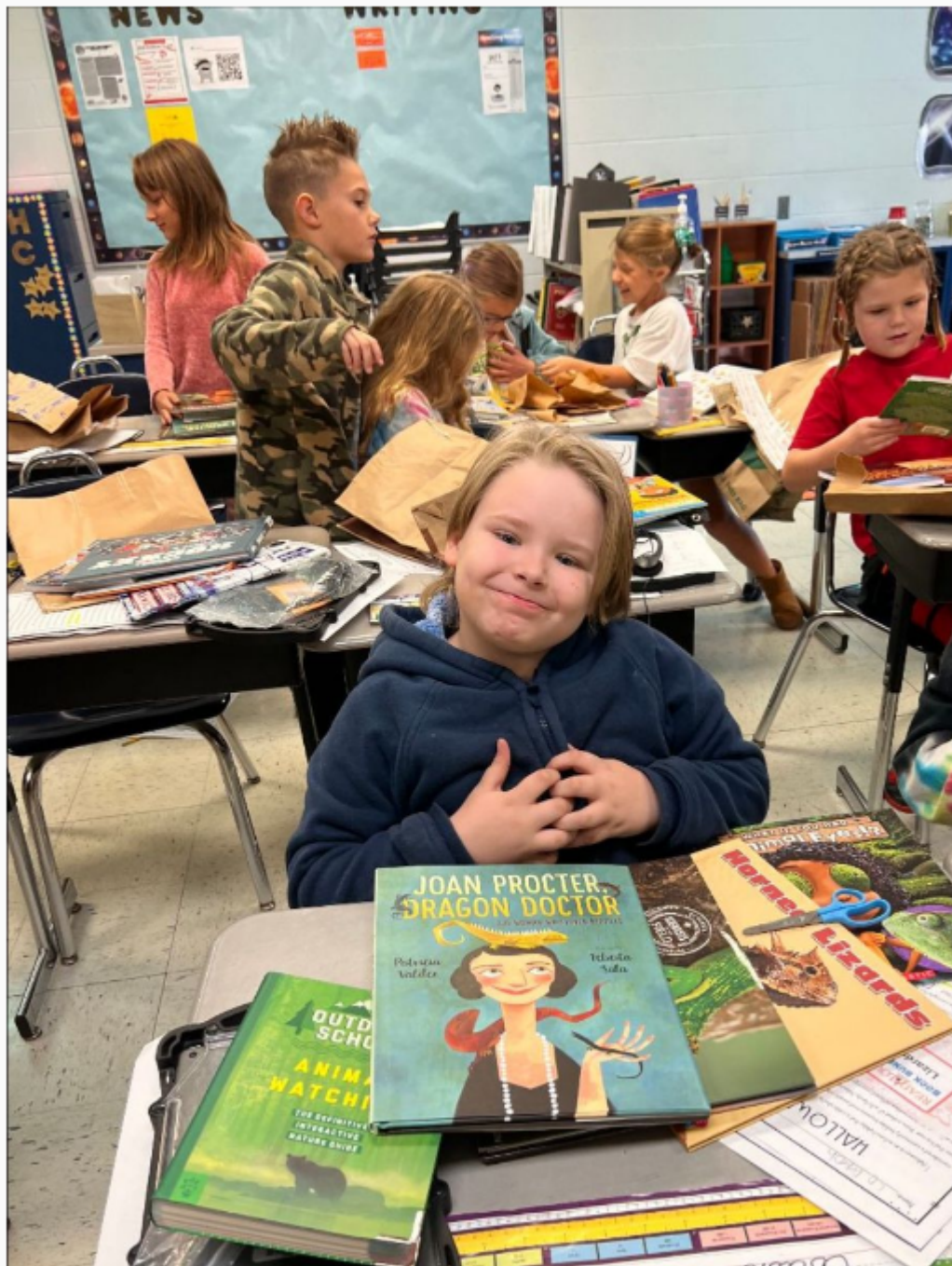
Students at Mabscott Elementary School in Raleigh County unwrap their Book Bundles.

READ ALOUD

WEST VIRGINIA

Do you want to read in a classroom next year?

Send us an email at stateoffice@readaloudwv.org to get in touch with us!



A student from Jackson County poses with his lizard-themed Book Bundle.

In 11 schools this year, Read Aloud WV tried a new program we've become really excited about. We distributed "Book Bundles" on a child's favorite subject primarily to elementary school students. Each bundle contains five books on a subject the student choose earlier. These ranged from basketball, to pets, dance, reptiles, sharks, and more. This research-informed method motivates children to WANT to read, because motivation is the first step in developing any skill. Book Bundles help grow a child's background knowledge and drives reading comprehension.

Students build fluency and confidence as they comb through their easier books. Knowledge gained there helps them to read more difficult books. Reading multiple texts on the same subject increases reading proficiency four times faster than other methods, according to the WV Department of Education. Book Bundles also build anticipation around reading. Even some of our most seasoned volunteers were even impressed by the level of excitement in the classrooms on unwrapping day.

More than 2,000 books were distributed through Book Bundles this past school year. We will be distributing more Book Bundles this coming school year based on the program's success. Classrooms that are enrolled with Read Aloud WV are eligible to receive Book Bundles and other book distributions.

A special thanks to our funders for this program: the Bernard McDonough Foundation, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, and the Arthur and Joan Weisberg Family Foundation.



Volunteers who delivered the Book Bundles said unwrapping days were "similar to Christmas morning."

Thanks to everyone who attended Read-A-Palooza 2024!

It was a special night looking toward the future of Read Aloud WV and celebrating the accomplishments of our volunteers statewide. We want to thank our sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and community for continuing to champion our work here at Read Aloud WV.

We were honored to recognize one volunteer reader: Delilah Willis, and her parents Deanna and Mike. The Willis family drove from Berkeley County the day of the event to attend. Delilah, who is blind, is a volunteer reader for 3rd graders at Bunker Hill Elementary School, where she reads to her students in Braille.

Delilah reminds us of the importance of reading aloud. She shares a love for children's literacy and shows the commitment volunteers make for their students. We are so appreciative of Delilah for being a classroom reader, and for making the long trip from Kearneysville to Charleston!



Above: Tom Heywood (left) recognizes Delilah Willis (seated second from left) and the Willis family for her volunteer efforts. Below, Read-A-Palooza attendees mingle during the event.

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Getting Ready to Read this Summer





Above: A student at Fairview Elementary School in Marion County hugs his Principal, Mel Coleman, during their Summer Book Binge celebration. Below: Fairview students read along from their new books.



McDowell County Community Baby Shower



Read Aloud WV donated baby board books to Big Creek People in Action, a hard-working nonprofit in Caretta, McDowell County, for a community baby shower Memorial Day Weekend. Over 100 families received books, diapers, toys, informational material, and more, thanks to many regional businesses and community organizations.

Books and Baseball in the Capital City



Read Aloud WV and the Charleston Dirty Birds partnered in May to send hundreds of young readers home with a new book to enjoy this summer as they headed into break. They also witnessed an extra-innings walk-off win by the Dirty Birds!

It was an exciting experience for everyone. We want to thank the Dirty Birds for their commitment to our community and helping grow childhood literacy in West Virginia.

It was a wonderful school year! We hope you're all enjoying your summer. We'll see you back in the Fall!