

COVENTRY

They're off to see the wizard



Submitted photos

Above: Faculty at Blackrock Elementary School dressed up as their favorite 'Wizard of Oz' character for Reading Week. Right: Adele Richtarik, a reading teacher at Blackrock Elementary School, rode a bike through the school hallways as the Wicked Witch.

Blackrock faculty and staff get into Reading Week with 'Oz'-themed activities

COVENTRY — Blackrock Elementary School recently celebrated Reading Week with a fun-filled daily schedule of activities. Children were surprised by a cackling witch, played by Reading Teacher Adele Richtarik, who rode a bike through the hallways to kick off the week's theme: The Wizard of Oz.

As everyone entered the front hallway, they were greeted by cardboard cut-outs of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, Glinda —

the good witch, the Wicked Witch, the flying monkeys and the munchkins.

All students had reading maps and logs embracing the Wizard of Oz theme which they completed at home. The Wizard of Oz daily trivia questions also made the week festive. Each day a primary and intermediate student won trivia prizes. The week culminated in a slideshow for the

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Oz

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whole school aired in the gym.

Activities for the week included Rhode Island Storyteller Len Cabral, “Drop Everything and Read” and a Pajama Day to benefit the RI-based Books are Wings Foundation. Students also participated in buddy reading and a math vocabulary hat parade presented by the third grade students.

The gala event for the school featured a Guest Reader Day on March 22, which community leaders were able to take part in. Each guest was assigned to a classroom and given a special book to read aloud. One guest reader, Joseph Lucian, who is an Assistant Principal at Coventry High School, came dressed as Dr. Suess to read to a first grade classroom. Many teachers came to school dressed as their favorite Oz characters. Students on the first grade team came as the Cowardly Lion, Tin Man and Scarecrow.

The goal of the week-long celebration is to get everyone in the school excited about reading.

“We certainly did that,” said Richtarik. “After all, there is no place like home — our Blackrock school community!”