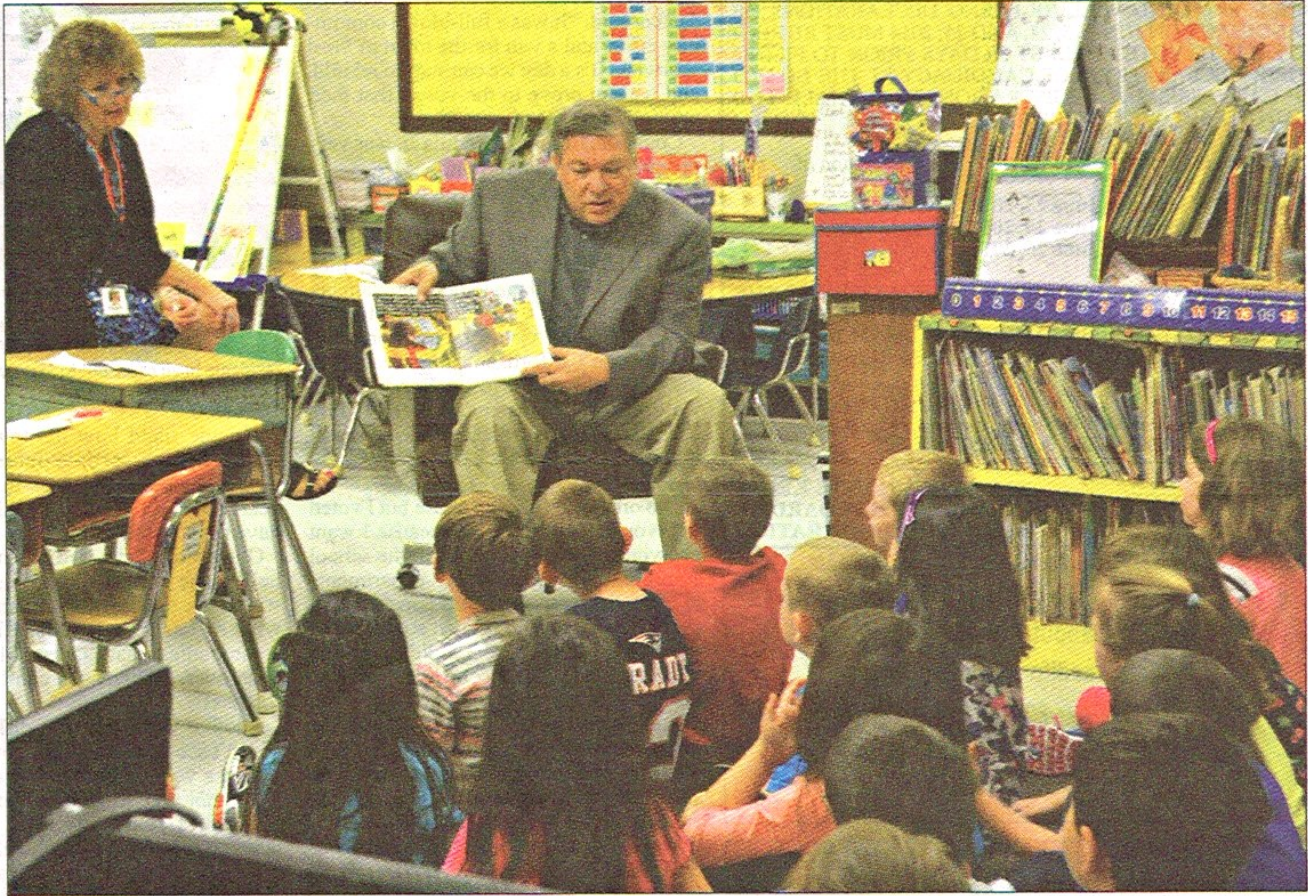


Real Page Turners



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

ABOVE: Coventry School Committeeman Dave Florio reads to Blackrock students Wednesday, as does WJAR meteorologist Kelly Bates (below) as part of the school's celebration of reading week.

Guest readers visit Coventry's Blackrock Elementary

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
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COVENTRY — Almost 40 guest readers were on a mission at Blackrock Elementary School Wednesday morning as they paraded through the school, favorite books in hand,

before stopping at their respective assigned classrooms to read to students as part of reading week.

The guest reading day began years ago as part of the various activities that take place over reading week along with storytelling, a door decorating contest and other games but

administrators say that by far, guest reading is the most popular.

The fifth-grade students write letters to whoever they'd like to invite and hope to get a return letter back from that person saying they'll accept the invitation.

The individuals range from retired teachers and school administrators to local representatives and business owners.

Representative Scott Guthrie, Dist. 28 (Coventry), has been taking part in the reading day for six years and loves getting his letter of invite.

"Every year I get a letter from a student and I send that letter back telling them I'll attend," Guthrie said. "My letter came from Nick Kanaczet."

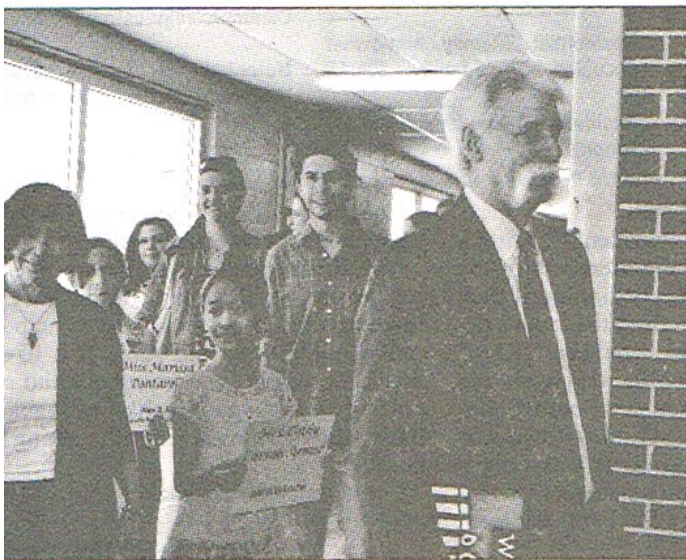
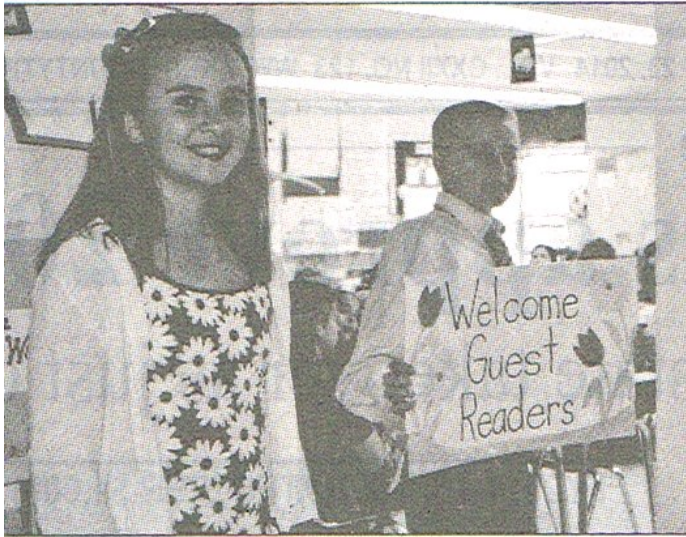
Guthrie, who enjoys reading non-fiction about the presidents, said taking part in this keeps him sharp and he enjoys being a part of educating children.

"There's so many here from all different backgrounds — you've got teachers, politicians, business people," he said.



See READERS, Page A-2

Readers visit Blackrock Wednesday



Continued from Page A-1

WJAR meteorologist Kelly Bates, who received a letter from Nate Riley, has been participating in the reading day for seven years and read the first chapter of one of the Harry Potter books

"These kids are remarkable," she said. "They are very nice kids, attentive, thankful, polite and a pleasure to be around."

Ben, Marissa, Lauren and Kerrin, representatives from Alex and Ani, read a book called "Detective LeRue- Letters from the Investigation" by Mark Teague.

For Ben and Marissa, it was like coming home because they attended Blackrock.

"I'm a big reader and I was excited to come back," said Ben.

"I love working with kids and this is a great way to get out of the work environment

TOP: Students at Blackrock Elementary got dressed to impress as they entertained guest readers from around the community and the rest of the state Wednesday.

LEFT: Dist. 28 Representative Scott Guthrie is paraded around the school by students.

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"These kids are remarkable. They are very nice kids, attentive, thankful, polite and a pleasure to be around."

— Kelly Bates,
WJAR meteorologist,
on Blackrock Elementary students

and do something in the community," Lauren said.

"I think every school should do this," said Kerrin.

Local business owner Bob Gordon, a Civil War book buff, loves being a part of the event.

"I love the kids and it's great for them," he said.

Retired Blackrock teacher Lynn Sisson, an avid reader herself, is always excited to come and see the students and her friends.

"I love how the students send the letters out and I enjoy writing them back," she said. "It really involves the students and I have so much fun. I believe in the importance of reading and there are so many wonderful children's books out there. I hope those children who may not enjoy reading as much, celebrate the experience and can light the fire in themselves."