

Guest Reader Day in Coventry



Jessica Selby/Daily Times

Top: Guest readers line up for the procession that the school safety patrol led through the classrooms.
Bottom: Comedian Ben Hague reads to children in Sue Flynn's classroom; Governor Chaffee chose to read "R is for Rhode Island red" in Jeanna Sinotte's classroom.

Governor Chaffee and other local celebs spend time reading to kids

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COVENTRY — Tiogue School welcomed a plethora of special visitors on Thursday.

The governor, Lincoln Chaffee, was there, as well as various other local celebrities including Channel 10's Kelly Bates and Dan Jaehnig, Will Gilbert from WPRO, Ken Bell from ABC 6 Sports and many others.

It was all part of the school's annual Guest Reader Day. Each year Adele Richtarik, one of the reading specialists for the school, organizes the event.

She said that she feels that "reading is the single greatest achievement any person can accomplish in their lifetime," and thinks that it is impor-

tant for well known people, other than the student's teachers to share that gift with the youngsters.

"Reading affects every facet of one's life," Richtarik said. "I feel fortunate to be able to specialize in the teaching of reading because of the real impact it has on everyone."

Hopefully, she said, these readers will also have an impact on the children, many of which clearly appeared to.

As each of the guest readers arrived, they were welcomed into the school by Richtarik and then guided to an area where members of the fifth grade safety patrol organized them for a procession throughout the entire school building.

During the procession students were clustered in groups in their classrooms to welcome each of the guests. Many of the guests were welcomed with exaggerated waves and massive smiles, but some also got hugs and high fives.

According to Richtarik, the students truly look forward to this event each year, because not only

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are celebrities invited for the special event, but so are many former teachers, this year the school's former principal, Denise Richtarik, who retired last year was invited back, as well as local administrators. It's a good representation from the community, Richtarik said.

Immediately following the procession, each of the guest readers are escorted to a different classroom inside the school where they are offered a book to read to the students patiently

waiting for their arrival.

Ben Hague, a comedian, read in Sue Flynn's classroom. The governor read "R is for Rhode Island Red," to the students in Jeanna Sinotte's classroom. Kelly Bates read "Cloudette" to the students in Room 17 and Audrey Levy-Lachance, a member of the PTA read a rhyme book to the youngsters in Room 12.

Overall, the day was a hit, Richtarik said. The kids were happy, the guest readers did wonderfully and the teachers loved having the special opportunity.