

Summer reading challenge brings rewards to school

Western Coventry school students read their way into one thousand dollars

JESSICA SELBY

jselby@ricentral.com

COVENTRY—Last Month Western Coventry School became \$1,000 richer.

The students were financially awarded for their dedication to reading over the summer months.

Doctor William Gordon, whose orthodontic practice is located on Tiogue Avenue in Coventry, presents a challenge each summer to all of the local elementary schools. He said that he challenges the students to outdo each other by reading the most books and which ever school reads the most per student, will earn their school a \$1,000 donation.

This year, as well as last year, Western Coventry Elementary School secured the win.

Lisa Lukowicz, who is a reading teacher at the school, said that she and Karen Guilmette, also a reading teacher at the school, and Sherri Arnold a reading assistant, organized the challenge at her school. She said that upon return of the school year this year she learned that the students had read approximately 3,200 books.

She said that the students reported reading “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” by Eric Carle, “Biscuit’s Big Friend,” by A.S. Capucilli, and “Pop...The Invention of Bubble Gum,” just to name a few.

“This is a challenge that we propose all of our students; K through fifth graders, participate in,” Lukowicz said. “We tell them that they can read anything they want; and of course we are expecting our K, first and second graders to read more because their books are shorter, which they did, but really, all of our students did wonderfully.”

Lukowicz said that as part of the challenge, the students are asked to keep track of how many and which books they read because at the end of the challenge, the students at the winning school that read the most are also individually recognized as well as the classroom with the highest number of books read.

This year Benjamin Carignan, Tyler Simon, Isobel McConnell, Sophia Quindazzi and Adam Rose were all recognized for their accomplishments in the reading challenge.

Cate Spearman’s second grade was the classroom that was recognized as the top readers. Gordon actually gave those students a special award; a pizza party to commend them on their commitment to the program.

Lukowicz said that having won last year, she thought for sure some of the students would slack off this year, but she said, it was actually just the opposite. She said that the students all came back to school in September reporting that they tried to outdo last summer’s accomplishments, which they obviously managed to do.

This year, she said, they did outdo last year’s reported numbers.

“We were VERY surprised, but excited to win again,” she said.

Gordon said that he wasn’t surprised that Western won again, he said that the school always delivers good numbers, but was surprised by just how many books they did read.

“We started this challenge several years ago and every year we get more and more kids participating in their school’s challenge so the numbers are always climbing but I really couldn’t believe their numbers this year,” Gordon said. “We do this because we are a part of this community and I just feel like when you give kids an incentive it helps them to meet a goal and our goal is to make this community better.

“I just think that it’s always better to take a pos-

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The top 5 readers and top readers in their grade are pictured. 1st row: Benjamin Carignan, Tyler Simon, Isobel McConnell, Sophia Quindazzi and Adam Rose. 2nd row: Mrs. Janice Sullivan Principal, Dr. William Gordon, Bryan Wolfendon, David Marzella, Lena Lukowicz, Elizabeth Lahoud and Hailee Rice.