

TURNING PAGES, AND A PROFIT

LOCAL ORTHODONTIST HANDS WESTERN COVENTRY ELEMENTARY A CHECK FOR ITS SUCCESS IN DISTRICT'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM



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COVENTRY — For the second year in a row, Western Coventry Elementary School was awarded \$1,000 after its students read the most books in the district during the summer.

This is the fourth time that Western Coventry has won the reading contest. Each year, Dr. William Gordon, an orthodontist with offices located in East Greenwich and Coventry, presents the check to the school in the district who has read the most books.

Gordon came to the elementary school yesterday to congratulate the students and present the

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LEFT: Western Coventry Elementary School Principal Janice Sullivan and Dr. William Gordon at yesterday's ceremony.

RIGHT: Gordon and Sullivan with winners from the individual grades: (l-r) Evelyn Buffi, fourth grade; Ben Carrigan, second grade; John Karkland, third grade; Nathan Smith, kindergarten; Evan-Paul Mendency, first grade; and Michaela Rietzel, fifth grade.



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Students pack the gym at Western Coventry Elementary School, where Dr. William Gordon presented the school with a check for reading the most books in the district over the summer.

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Reading pays for W. Coventry

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check to Principal Janice Sullivan.

Sullivan explained that the students read more than 4,000 books this summer. She said that teachers encourage the students to find a book that "will take them away on a magical journey." The books can be fiction, non-fiction, comic books, picture books or magazines.

"We believe you should be reading over the summer to strengthen those reading skills as well as the enjoyment," said Reading Specialist at the school Karen Guilmette.

Teachers recognized the student in each grade who read the most books and presented them with a certificate, along with a school store certificate to purchase items from the store.

"We want to celebrate the top readers

per grade level but there are also classrooms that handed in a lot of reading logs," said Guilmette.

Kristina McKenna, a fifth grade teacher, was awarded a certificate for collecting the most reading logs from her students.

The reading logs are turned into teachers by students explaining the numerous books they read at home with their parents.

Before summer begins, the faculty explains the advantages of summer reading to the students. They also send out newsletters encouraging parents to read with their children.

After the ceremony, Dr. Gordon provided a pizza party for the classroom that read the most books. Guilmette said typically, the party goes to a lower grade but this year Brenda Dadekian's fifth-grade class read 356 books and was awarded the

pizza party.

The first year the elementary school won, it used the money to purchase guided reading books for teachers to use in small groups for grades kindergarten through five.

During these group times, the teachers work with the students to help them on different reading strategies.

Last year however, Western Coventry faculty used the money to purchase story picture books. These books helped students learn reading comprehension.

"Not only are you helping the schools purchase more books for the classes, but you're helping yourself," said Guilmette to the students. "You're strengthening your reading skills and background knowledge, which will help you be a much better student as you go forward."