

Dr. Sibley returns to Wauneta-Palisade with gift of dictionaries

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Joshua Hicks, front, and Alex Garcia look at their new dictionaries. (DeAnn Davis | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta-Palisade third grade class welcomed back a familiar face last Friday when Dr. Stan Sibley stopped by to deliver dictionaries to every member of the class.

Sibley delivered the box of dictionaries as a service outreach project of the Glenwood, Iowa Rotary. The Dictionary Project is a national project in which the Glenwood Rotary participates.

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The project, which is headed by the non profit organization by the same name, located in Charleston, S.C., works to give dictionaries to third graders in every county in the United States.

According to the Dictionary Project's website, "The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary."

The website goes on to say, "The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn, so we encourage our sponsors to give dictionaries each year to children in the third grade." Sibley mirrored those sentiments. He said the third grade is especially important because studies have shown that if a student falls behind at the third grade level it is often hard for them to catch back up.

He said the Rotary participates in the project as a way of letting students know the community feels their education and their literacy is important.

Sibley noted that he and other volunteers know that parents and teachers are doing a great job of helping students learn to read, but the project is another way of letting kids know that adults in the community value their literacy and education.

The Glenwood Rotary sent Sibley to deliver the dictionaries at both Hayes Center Public Schools and Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools last Friday.

The two school districts were chosen because Keith Johnson, who organizes the project for Glenwood Rotary, noticed that Hayes and Hitchcock Counties were among those not officially adopted by a service group for the Dictionary Project.

Sibley noted that the Imperial Rotary recently added the charge of the Dictionary Project to their list of services to Imperial and Chase County.

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