

# THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

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## Dist 4 invests in summer reading program for 2nd graders

ADDISON — Addison School District 4 has invested in a special program this summer designed to maintain a high educational level for 2nd grade students. A common and well-documented problem with a long summer break is that students often 'lose' a great deal between June and the beginning of the following school year, particularly in the area of reading. In fact,

Last spring, members of the Fullerton School faculty attended

the International Reading Association's International Conference at McCormick Center. There they saw a presentation on a Summer Reading Program implemented by Round Lake District 116. The program was based on a Harvard research study conducted by James Kim and Thomas White. The Fullerton staff, led by 2nd grade teacher Margie Anderson, immediately began discussions on how a similar program could be implemented in District 4.

Those conversations led to the development of a reading program which is being implemented beginning this week for all of District 4's 2nd grade students. Thanks to grant money, as well as donations from Addison Council PTA, Addison Park District and the Friends of the Addison Library, every 2nd grade student will be receiving books in the mail this summer. Each week, for eight weeks, a new book will be mailed to every 2nd grader's home. Included with the book will be bookmarks that remind students of good reading strategies

to use while reading and that offer incentives to students when they finish reading the books. Additionally, the books that students read can be credited towards the Addison Public Library's summer reading program.

"We're excited about the potential for this project to severely lessen, and even eliminate summer reading loss," said Bill Bicker, Fullerton School Principal. "We feel that this project will have a number of long term benefits for our students. Increased abilities to read and think critically, building a home library, and developing a

life-long love of reading are just a few of the many positive outcomes we anticipate."

In order to help engage the students in the project, 2nd graders were given lists of fiction and non-fiction book titles earlier this spring. With their teachers' approval, the students then selected eight books that they will be receiving over the weeks of summer vacation. District teachers and administrators are looking forward to seeing positive changes in student growth and hope to expand the program in years ahead.