

Menchaca Elementary First Graders Reading Initiative



Did you know...

Five to six year olds have a vocabulary of 2,500-5,000 words.

The average student learns about 3,000 words per year in the early school years (8 words per day).

Disadvantaged students in the first grade have a vocabulary that is approximately half that of an advantaged student.

Since 1983, more than 10 million Americans reached the 12th grade without having learned to read at a basic level.

44 million adults in the U.S. cannot read well enough to read a simple story to a child.

Out-of-school reading habits of students have shown that even 15 minutes a day of independent reading can expose students to more than a million words a year.

But what if...

36.5 million Americans- 40% of them children- are currently living below the poverty line.

61 percent of low-income families have no books for children in their homes at all.

80 % of preschool and after-school programs serving low-income children have no age appropriate children's books.

The First Graders Reading Initiative exists to ensure that all first graders at Menchaca Elementary (most of whom live at or below the poverty line) can take home 12 new books the summer after first grade. Researchers have confirmed that access to books is the #1 correlating factor that accompanies reading retention during the summer after first grade. Please consider assisting us in ensuring that these precious children have access to this advantage! Contact Annie Downing for more information!

All Amazon orders placed through the “**Shop at the St. Albans Bookstore**” link at <http://stalbansaustin.org/BOOKSTORE.htm> on our website www.stalbansaustin.org will benefit this program. We so appreciate the enthusiasm of our friends and friends of friends who make their purchases through our link for the sake of these children. **Please pass this along to your friends and co-workers who will be ordering from Amazon anyway. What a blessing this will be if it goes viral.** If we exceed the amount needed, we will buy books for the first graders and/or second graders at other schools who serve great numbers of children who live challenged lives.

Thank you!

Margaret Waters, Rector, St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Sources: Firstbook.org & The Literacy Company