

Books for Schools

At the last book sale, we ran an experiment, to see if teachers from a local elementary school were interested in obtaining books for their classrooms from our sale. Elayne Dauber was the host. From her article in the Town Crier ..



My guests were the school librarian (a retired librarian who now volunteers 20 hours a week in the school library) and the school reading specialist (a former lawyer who finds more satisfaction teaching children). One of them looked at our children's book room and said, "I feel like a child in a candy store." Each of them proceeded to select books, not so much by title, but associating each book with a child. "Johnny will love this one." "I can't wait to see Sara's face when I show her that I found this book for her." Every student was, for these women, an individual with their own tastes and interests. They must know every child in the school. I kept thinking how lucky we are to have such dedicated people teaching our children. During the sale five other teachers from the same school came to select books. I have since heard that they were all very pleased. At no cost to the teachers, they acquired about 450 books for their classrooms.

As I saw their delight, I realized how powerful volunteering and literacy donations can be. It starts with the residents who donate their books to the Friends of the Library knowing that each book will end up in another's hands, and the money earned will go to the library. It's made possible by the Friends who take the time to sort the books and run the sales.

Books for Schools is a designated fund established by the Friends of the Library of Los Altos to pay for the books that teachers purchase for their classrooms at our used book sales. This fund enables the Friends to invite teachers from public K-8 schools to attend our sales and purchase books without having to pay for the books by themselves.

Books for Schools was started by an anonymous donor and it is the hope of the Friends that continued public donations will support this fund to empower our teachers in the years to come.

To donate to the fund, note on your donation that it is for "Books for Schools" and send it to:

Friends of the Library of Los Alto, P. O. Box 212, Los Altos, CA 94023-0212

Direct any further questions and/or requests for more information to:

info@losaltoslibraryfriends.org

Quote

"Man acts as though he were the shaper and master of language, while in fact language remains the master of man." — Martin Heidegger

Books for Schools - Teachers registration

If you are a teacher and would like to participate in Books for Schools, send an email to info@losaltoslibraryfriends.org with:

- your name
- your email address
- your school name and grade level (K-8)
- your school principal's name and email
- Put "Books for Schools" or "B4S" in your subject line

Principals will be asked to validate this information for those who register with us.

You will be assigned a registration number and to notify the Friends by email if you are planning to attend the upcoming used book sale. In the email, specify if you wish to come to Friday's "members-only" night so that membership can be arranged. Depending on Books for Schools funding, we may find it necessary to set a dollar-limit per teacher, based on expected turnout at a particular sale.

At our sales, select the books you would like for your classroom, get a total slip from one of the "adders," and give the slip to the "cashier" with your registration number written on it. You will be asked for ID to ensure that you are the registered teacher.

The next Book Sale - at Hillview Community Center on May 3, 4, and 5

The next book sale will be the last sale at Hillview, assuming the project to demolish the existing community centre and start on a replacement proceeds according to schedule.

The sale after that will be at the Los Altos Youth Centre (LAYC), during the weekend of 23 - 25 August.

We are hoping to move pricing and sorting operations to the Main Library, starting after the May sale. If we can get agreement from the City Council, we will use a new mobile building near the Library - this would let us continue financial support for Library books and programs as we have done for the last 60 years.



