



OSSINING UFSD NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Two Students to be Honored for Reading 1,000 Books

(OSSINING, N.Y.) – David and Ruth Schultz, age 5 and 4, respectively, will be honored at a Nov. 19 event for having read or heard 1,000 books as participants in the “1,000 Books Project”—a community program developed three years ago by the Ossining Staff Development Center in cooperation with the Ossining Public Library to prepare children from birth through age 6 for reading success in school. David and Ruth join three other students who completed the program last year.

To participate in the program, parents can borrow canvas carry-bags, each filled with 10 age-appropriate books, from the children’s room at the Ossining Public Library for a period of two weeks. At times during the summer, all 100 bags—which were sponsored by Ossining District faculty and staff, as well as members of the community for \$100 each—are on loan.

Due to the popularity of the 1,000 Books Project, the Ossining Staff Development Center has begun a second series consisting of 620 books made up of a combination of dual-language and multicultural variety for further benefit the entire community. These books have the text written in both English and another language, such as Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Indian and others, making it easier for parents who are more comfortable reading to their young children in their native language. This series of books exposes children to reading as well as to the understanding of different cultures. In addition, it brings the English translations to parents, who themselves may be learning a new language.

The students will be honored at the Teacher Center Policy Board Meeting at the Ossining High School Library at 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 19, where they will receive their awards,

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Pg. 2/1,000 Books

including an “I read 1,000 books!” T-shirt.

“The best way to put a child on the road to lifelong learning is to get them reading early and often,” said Carole Ernest, director of the Ossining Staff Development Center. “The 1,000 Books Project is an ideal resource for parents who don’t have the time or the means to select 1,000 age-appropriate books to enhance their child’s love of reading. So we do that for them.”

The Ossining Staff Development Center, funded through a state grant since 1992, assists teachers in their professional growth and enrichment by offering courses and workshops throughout the school year and summer months.

The Ossining Union Free School District, nationally recognized for its mission to further the success of all children, serves approximately 4,200 pupils in six schools: Roosevelt School for newborn to four-year-olds, Park Early Childhood Center for kindergarten through first grade, Brookside School for grades two and three, Claremont School for grades four and five, Anne M. Dorner Middle School for grades six through eight, and Ossining High School for grades nine through 12.

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