

Reading Around the Forest Program at Sherwood Forest Elementary

Yelena Alexander

Sherwood Forest Elementary ELL K-5 Teacher

Thank you so much for this incredible opportunity to support our Reading Program at Sherwood Forest Elementary! The Reading Around the Forest program provides enriching literacy opportunities for our ELL students and their families by sending books home to read at their current reading level. Our students need these resources to continue their learning at home. Many ELL parents worry about not being able to support their child with homework (which is read 30 minutes daily) at home due to the language barrier and lack of resources.

Sending books home with translated reading strategies alleviated that stress for many parents. Now many of them come to volunteer for this Reading Program. They help us level, organize, and distribute books, keep records and give out incentives. Students can exchange their books for a new one every Tuesday and Thursday. On Fridays the voracious readers get acknowledged by our principal for their participation in the program and completion of the reading logs. We used this grant to purchase a variety of high interest, culturally relevant, leveled books to increase reading abilities and language proficiency of our students. Partnering with First Book, a non-profit organization, that provides high quality books at a low cost of shipping and handling, allowed us to use the grant money for more than 400 books for our reading program. We also hosted a Family Reading Night, where teachers and students demonstrated how to support readers at each reading level, enjoyed listening to stories, and took free books home.

Thank you again for supporting our ELL students and families! Your thoughtfulness makes a big difference in our lives!

To apply for a 2018 Project Funding Grant (\$500) visit the Grants, Awards, Scholarships page on the WAESOL website. www.waesol.org

