



My Very Own Book Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MVOB Begins School Year	1
President's Message	2
How to Help in Sept. & Oct.	2
Car Show for Kids & Adults, Car Pictures	3
President's Message Cont.	4
Contact Info	4

MVOB Begins 2011-2012 School Year!

(Serving more than 4,000 students in seven schools)

Once MVOB begins a program in a Title I elementary school, we work hard to raise funds to ensure we can continue that program year after year before we expand to additional schools. Students come to expect and depend on the program, and it becomes a part of the curriculum. We never want to disappoint a school. Thanks to our outstanding supporters, we will continue our program at the following five schools:
Audelia Creek (RISD) - 3rd year
Elisha M. Pease (DISD) - 3rd year
Maria Moreno (DISD) - 2nd year
Mendenhall (PISD) - 3rd year
Spring Valley (RISD) - 2nd year
and we will expand to two new Title I elementary schools.

Barron Elementary in Plano ISD



Grades Kindergarten - 5th
Approximately 450 students
Principal Michele Loper
MVOB Site Coordinator Pat Essig

From our very first meeting with the Barron Elementary principal, the training of the program school site coordinator and meeting with faculty, MVOB has met with nothing but enthusiasm. We are excited to be serving a second Plano ISD

school. We believe our reading incentive program is a perfect fit for the Barron Bigcats' motto, "Inspiring young minds, one paw print at a time." As we motivate and inspire kids to read, we hope the adventures they take through books will also inspire them in many ways.

Titche Elementary in Dallas ISD



Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 5th
Approximately 1,000 students
Principal Julie Crabtree
MVOB Site Coordinator Pam Henderson

Despite having the school under construction, the Edward Titche Elementary staff has readily welcomed MVOB. They have set aside precious time for meetings in order to run a successful program from the first day of school. The mission of Titche says it wants their students to become "creative, productive lifelong learners." As an organization that strives to create lifelong readers, we are excited to work with a school that shares our passion.

To learn about our reading incentive program at these seven schools, visit www.myveryownbook.org.

Message from the President

We have just started My Very Own Book's third year and are now serving more than 4,000 children in 7 schools! Yes, growing to this level will be additional work but I recently met with the faculty of one of our new schools and explained why we do what we do.

According to teachers and students, because of MVOB children are reading more outside of regular school hours. According to current research:

Reading more increases literary skills.

Increased literary skills improve academic success across the curriculum.

Academic success facilitates higher levels of education.

An educated citizenry enriches communities.

On a more personal, individual level, book ownership should be an opportunity available to all children. Choosing, owning and reading many books helps develop a love of books and often creates life-long readers. This is a priceless gift to our children. **Continue on Page 4**

"...book ownership should be an opportunity available to all children."

How to Help in September and October

Volunteer on Book Selection Day

Sunday, September 25th 2:00 p.m.

Jager Solutions at 1701 Summit Ave, #8 in East Plano (just N. of Plano Pkwy, between Jupiter and Avenue K).

On the 25th we need at least 21 volunteers to help us box up the books to go to our seven schools for the first awards day. Volunteers will select books based on established parameters, others will add up the value of the selected books, and others will box and label the books for delivery. No experience is necessary. While this is a lot of work, and usually takes 2-3 hours, it is exciting to pick/see the quality books kids will be receiving as rewards for reading outside of school.

Volunteer at Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, October 1st

Half Day Shifts: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm; 12:00 - 3:30 pm

1st shift can stay later or 2nd shift can come earlier to walk around. Please eat before or after your shift.

All Day Shift: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

All day volunteers will be provided with a lunch break and a break to walk around.

We need at least 75 full day or 150 half day volunteers at this event!! Touch-a-Truck is a family friendly event. See Page 3 for more info about the event. Some volunteers will help with check-in, games, drink

distribution, etc. Most volunteers will be assigned to help a vehicle owner welcome kids to the vehicle, chat with them while they wait, help form lines if applicable.

To volunteer for either activity, e-mail Kelley.VanAuken@myveryownbook.org.

Payroll Deductions

(forms usually come out Sept. or Oct.)

If you routinely opt to have a portion of your paycheck donated to a charity, we hope you will select us this year. I want to stress that every little bit helps and your dollars go a long way! We are an all volunteer organization and we go out of our way to be frugal so that our money can go towards the program costs – new books, Star Reader medals, etc. for children.

If you would like your deductions to go to us, in the blank space on the United Way form given to you during open enrollment, please write in "My Very Own Book EIN 26-4196889." If you do not have our EIN with you when you receive the form, you can go to the Donate Page of our website (www.myveryownbook.org) to find these instructions.

If your company does not hand out forms, you can ask your HR department or contact The United Way of Metropolitan Dallas at 214-978-0000. If you are not in N. TX and you need forms, go to <http://liveunited.org/>.

Event Meant for Kids...Grown-Ups Will Love It Too!!

When we set out to put together our October 1st Touch-A-Truck event, it was meant to be a car show for kids. The goal was to bring to Valley View Center parking lot vehicles kids think are cool and let them sit in them, honk the horn, explore them, and learn about them from their drivers (i.e. fire fighters, police officers, race car drivers, etc.).

That is still what will happen, but the event has turned into something adults will want to attend as well! Since word has spread, some amazing companies, car clubs, and individuals have signed up to bring some awesome, unique, and valuable vehicles. Check some of them out below or see pictures of all of them at <http://www.myveryownbook.org/vehicles.html>. Adults can sit in them and honk the horn too! :)



**Texas Motor Speedway
60' Trailer and Race Car**

Craig Berry will also bring his Mazda Miata which he is racing in the Road America National Championships this month.



**1960 Elva Courier - #122; owned
by the only original owner worldwide**



1953 Chevy Pickup Truck



1979 Pontiac Trans Am



Model A

Touch-A-Truck Saturday, October 1st 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Valley View Center mall at 13331 Preston Rd. (enter off Preston on Dilbeck - just N. of 635)



1150 Scarlett Drive
Allen, TX 75002

Phone: 972-390-1017

Fax: 972-390-1017 (please call before faxing)

Officers:

President Helen Van Auken

Helen.VanAuken@myveryownbook.org

Executive Director Kelley Van Auken

Kelley.VanAuken@myveryownbook.org

Director of Community Education Dot Pitts

Dot.Pitts@myveryownbook.org

My Very Own Book runs reading incentive programs in elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods in North Texas school districts. At the end of each six weeks grading period, participating students are rewarded for minutes read at home with a certificate and a new, free book of their choice. This program works to increase literacy skills by motivating students to read outside of school hours and to put new books in the homes of families who often can't afford the luxury of purchasing their own new books.

This 2011-2012 school year is the third program year. More than 4,000 students in seven schools are being served: three in Dallas ISD, two in Plano ISD, and two in Richardson ISD.

Board Members:

Horacio Aldrete

Meredith Fisherman

Susie Hergenrader, Ph.D.

Jason Hunt

Sakkarra Winston

Donna Wood-Martin

www.myveryownbook.org

Message from the President cont.

A wise man once said:

"If we're going to have a successful democratic society, we have to have a well educated and healthy citizenry."

-Thomas Jefferson

A wise student responded to the question "What do you like about having MVOB at your school?"

"It lets me read and be more smart every time I read and practice." May 26, 2011

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers and supporters who continue to allow My Very Own Book to benefit the deserving children in our North Texas communities.

Quarterly Quote

"If we're going to have a successful democratic society, we have to have a well educated and healthy citizenry."

- Thomas Jefferson