

DELIVERING DICTIONARIES



Rotarians Tom Nesbitt (left), Veronica Sanchez and Mike Ianucilli (far right) with third-grade students at The O'Neal School



Shane English, Robin Howard, Robin Moore and Gary VonCannon prepare to distribute dictionaries of Aberdeen Elementary School.

It has been said that a child first learns to read and then reads to learn. Third grade is about when this transition happens. Dictionary skills are taught in the third grade, and providing a dictionary to each student will reinforce the learning process.

The Southern Pines, Pinehurst, Carthage and Sandhills Rotary clubs have raised funds to buy the hardbound dictionaries — "The MacMillan Dictionary for Children," with 848 pages, 35,000 entries and 3,000 images — to give to every third-grade student in Moore County.

Rotary members delivered more than 1,200 books to 20 public and private schools. This is the 13th year the clubs have done this, and this year the books were purchased locally through The Country Bookshop in Southern Pines. Additional funds were provided by a grant from Rotary District No. 7690.

In a thank-you note, Donna Sheets, a third-grade teacher, writes, "Your gift of a dictionary will be a valuable tool to increase each child's vocabulary. Many of our students ... do not have access to the internet or a library. You have enriched their lives."

And Eliza, a third-grade student, writes, "We use the dictionaries a lot in third grade, like for our vocabulary words on review week. Also, dictionaries are very useful at home ... I love opening mine and take a whiff of the nice smell of the crisp pages and the fresh ink."

— Courtesy of Southern Pines Rotary



Rotarians, teachers and students and Longleaf Academy