

Tanglewood Elementary PTA's SMART Book Drive



Kim Catalano
Tanglewood Elementary School PTA



Our second “Reading is Fundamental (RIF)” distribution and book drive was held in conjunction with the Texas PTA SMART program March 9-13. RIF was held throughout the week during library times for each class. This year’s theme was Book ’Em, and it was fantastic!

The Texas PTA SMART program encourages children to donate books to those who are less fortunate. Therefore, we encouraged each child to bring a book to donate to the Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, which houses homeless families in our community.

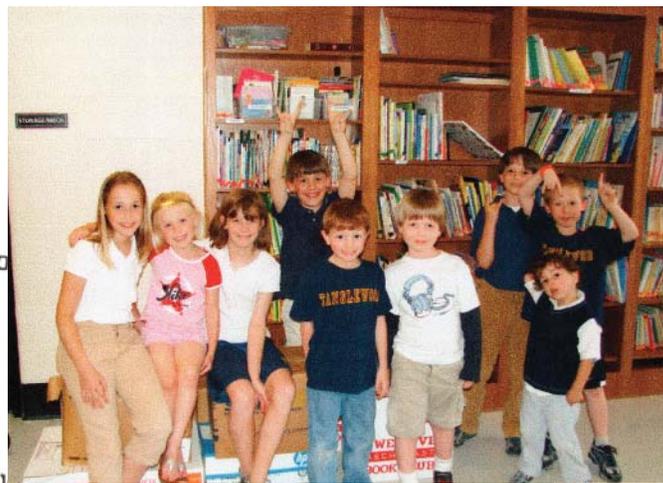
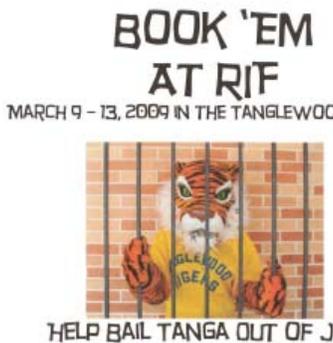
As part of the Book ’Em theme, Tanga the Tiger, our school mascot, was put in “jail,” and in order to free her, the children were asked to donate new or gently used books. We decorated the library with police clothing, fake handcuffs, flashing lights and a jail that was approximately 10 feet by 5 feet. We collected the donated books inside the jail itself all week. I also obtained donations of “goodies,” including coloring books, bracelets and cups, from the Fort Worth Police Department that we used as thank you gifts for students who brought a book. We

actually gave a gift to all students, and we collected 825 books that were donated to the mission. Some of the children actually delivered the books themselves!

A fun part of the book drive was the silent movie we created with the help of our library staff and Tanga. The movie, which was a big hit, was a story of how Tanga tried to steal a book from the library. After Tanga was caught by Officer Librarian Kay Nader, Tanga was handcuffed, fingerprinted, and put behind bars. When Tanga came before the judge, she was told there is no reason to steal books because you can always get a book for free at the Tanglewood Library. She was also told that since this week was RIF, she would be given a book to take home and keep.

So, as an added bonus, we provided a public service announcement to the students about the importance of learning to read and write, and that stealing is against the law.

After the movie, the children walked around the tables full of RIF books and made their selection. Then they made a bookmark with their fingerprint and selected their gift from the Fort Worth Police Department. The Book ’Em drive was a great success!



Tanglewood Elementary students collected 825 books that were donated to the Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County. The school's mascot, Tanga the Tiger, was put in “jail” and needed the students to donate books to free her.