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For Immediate Release

Melissa families visit Book Fair and “Read Under the Stars”

MELISSA, TX – As part of this year's annual “Sleigh Bells” Book Fair at the Melissa Ridge Intermediate and Melissa Middle School library, students and families were invited to a special “Read Under the Stars” event Tuesday evening at Cardinal Stadium.

Families lounged on the football field under the Melissa stars with blankets and pillows, reading books with flashlights. Everyone who entered received a red glow bracelet, as long as they had a book in tow.

Parents of intermediate and middle school students received an extra entry ticket for a book basket giveaway. Families came and left as they pleased, and teachers volunteered as monitors on the field and at the entry gate. Over 200 people attended between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

The “Sleigh Bells” Book Fair, organized by Library Media Specialist Cari Montgomery, is an annual event for the two schools. This year, Montgomery set her sights on starting a new tradition for students and parents, and the concept of “Read Under the Stars” was born.

“It was nice to see parents enjoying a special memory of reading with their children under the stars,” Montgomery said. “Something as small as sitting with a child to read can make a huge impact on a child’s life.”

The reading event opened with a short introduction from Montgomery, followed by two student speakers who each read a poem of their choice.

Josh Fine, a 4th grade student at Melissa Ridge Intermediate, read *Little Star* by James McGonigal. Lydia Thompson, a 7th grade student at Melissa Middle School, read *Escape at Bedtime* by Robert Louis Stevenson. They were selected to speak due to their passion and love for books and the library.

“In Melissa, we know reading is a life-long skill that will hopefully be enjoyed and cherished each and every day by our students and their families,” Montgomery said. “As a result, we hope to make this an annual event that we can all share as a Cardinal family for years to come.”



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