

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

September 16, 2021



Dennis bragged last week on [GFU's Art Students for the mural](#) on the side of [Lewis Audio Video](#). It's one of a few in town.

Brian Doyle, after confirmation that the prostate cancer he'd been diagnosed and treated for is confirmed under control, shared a story with us.



When his brother was in medical school the fraternity had songs that helped them remember diseases, symptoms and cures. This is him singing the prostate song from memory. You know, try as I might, Google just had nothing for me searching for "dr. quibley" and "chop them off." So you will just have to be at meetings so you can experience these moments for yourself. ;)



A few of us met at Family Life Church last Saturday for a cleanup of St. Paul Highway from Les Schwab to beyond the Bypass. Thanks, Rachel, for coffee and donuts. Thanks John and Rob for the pickups.



SMART Reading has been one of our longest continuously running community partners.

SMART's seed was planted in '91 by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and a group of concerned business leaders met to change Oregon's below grade level reading dilemma.

It's original launch was eight schools in two cities back in 1992 serving 585 children.

My first S.M.A.R.T. (Start Making A Reader Today) newsletter seems to have been 2007 and presented by Irene Barnard. Things have changed a bit in the last 14 years.

Our local [SMART Reading's](#) leadership is Michael Finlay, Area Manager, and Elide "Ellie" Sanchez Rivera who has been our Program Manager since March 2020. Yes, the COVID March.

The SMART mission is "To spark joy and opportunity through the magic of a shared book."

Since its inception they've served over 233,000 children and given away over 3 million books. Over 144,000 volunteers have logged over 4 million hours reading with children across Oregon.

Locally (Lincoln, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Yamhill) SMART delivered 17,000 books to 2,400 kids. Newberg

as 170 of those kids at Edwards, Joan Austin and Head Start.

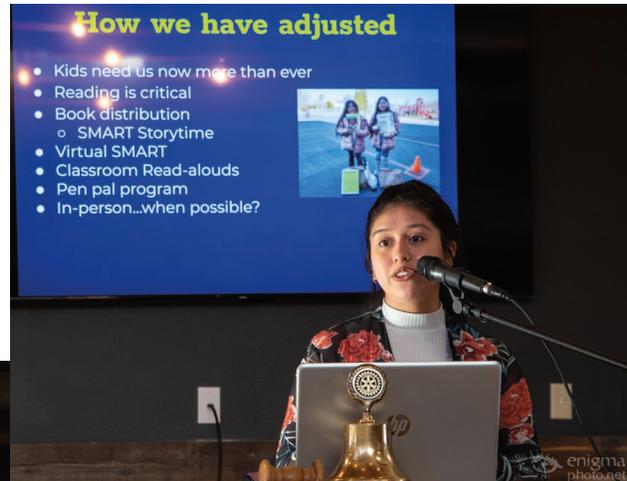
The magic of the program is building a joy of reading that students often bring home to parents, siblings, extended family, or even read to the dog. Just reading aloud.

When we could be readers that was a special time for kids and adults. "Oh look, it's the Smart Lady!"

Last year they focused on book distribution since they couldn't be in front of students. Principals really like that SMART starts early in pre-K and building an early love of reading.

They use what are affectionately referred to as gateway books to spark interest. They may begin with cultural similarity then open the door to learn of other cultures and races.

We actually are getting a little back in front of kids. But, because we can only have one at a time, we need two volunteers for each one child for risk management. College



- Kids need us now more than ever
- Reading is critical
- Book distribution
  - SMART Storytime
- Virtual SMART
- Classroom Read-alouds
- Pen pal program
- In-person...when possible?



## About SMART Reading: Northwest Area

- SMART Reading operates in 40 schools and PreK Programs across 5 counties: Lincoln, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill
- We delivered more than 17,000 books to 2,400 children this past year
  - In Newberg we are working with Edwards Austin and Newberg Head Start. We hope upwards of 170 students at those schools

students and office workers are often a good fit for 30 minutes a week.

But that could be 2022 depending on how the pandemic fates prevail.

For now, we have distribution (SMART Storytime), Virtual SMART, Classroom Read-alouds, and Pen Pals (correspondence passes through teacher and coordinator both directions).

Q: How do you engage parents?

A: With bookmarks and newsletters and we have a whole page on our site devoted to [family resources](#).