SGS Celebrates Reading

During Read Across America week Feb. 29-March 4, some strange and unusual creatures roamed the halls of Sterling Grade School. Thing 1 and Thing 2, Cindy Lou Who, Horton the elephant, and even The Cat in the Hat himself were spotted during the special week of activities aimed at celebrating the importance of reading.

Read Across America is an annual event sponsored by the National Education Association and centered around Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2. The purpose of the event is to promote reading and literacy in a fun way. Seuss is a well-known children's book author who wrote such classics as *The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Lorax*, and many others. Although Seuss died in 1991, his contributions to literacy live on through his stories.

"Before Dr. Seuss came on the scene, many children's books were considered boring," explains district librarian Amy Brownlee. "His crazy characters, humorous stories, and silly, made-up words were groundbreaking. He really changed children's literature. Because of him, we now have a thriving children's book industry filled with a wealth of well written and interesting stories."

His popular stories have inspired movies, costumes, toys and other merchandise, and even a Broadway show called *Seussical the Musical,* which was staged at Sterling High School a number of years ago.

To celebrate Dr. Seuss, SGS students and staff participated in daily dress-up days centered around Dr. Seuss books. Daily themes included: wear a hat (*The Cat in the Hat*), dress as your favorite Seuss character, wear green (*Green Eggs and Ham*), wear crazy or mismatched socks (*Fox in Socks*), and wear pajamas (*I am Not Going to Get Up Today*).

The school cafeteria served green eggs and ham for lunch on Seuss’s birthday, and students participated in Dr. Seuss-themed activities in Cindy Anthony’s music class. In the library, students listened to Seuss books read aloud, learned about his life, and watched Dr. Seuss movies.

A new activity this year was Reading Bingo, which was designed to promote reading outside of school. Each K-6 student received a Reading Bingo board to take home. The board for grades K-2 focused on when and where reading takes place (read in a closet, in the dark using a flashlight, after breakfast), and another board for grades 3-6 that included reading aloud, different types of reading (recipes, magazine articles), and responses to reading. Students earning a bingo by completing at least 5 reading activities could return their completed bingo boards to the library to earn a prize.

“Our students and staff had a great time celebrating Dr. Seuss this week,” Brownlee said. “It was fun to see the creativity in what people wore each day and hear them talking about their favorite book characters.”

"*The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." ~Dr. Seuss*