

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

UNITED WAY OF SALT LAKE

Contact: Jerilyn Stowe | 801-736-7709, [jerilyn@uw.org](mailto:jerilyn@uw.org)

### **TODAY: 19 UTAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY**

SALT LAKE CITY — Wednesday, March 2, thousands of Utah elementary students will be heard rhyming in unison as they participate in Dr. Seuss Day, part of the National Education Association's *Read Across America* initiative.

United Way of Salt Lake is partnering with **19 schools in Salt Lake and Davis** counties that are hosting Dr. Seuss fun reading events. Approximately **325 volunteers** including **18 companies**, a Salt Lake Community College class, and several community members will go into these schools to read Dr. Seuss books in classrooms, play literacy games with students – ALL in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday!

**9-10a.m. – South Kearns Elementary:** 50 volunteers from Instructure will read to Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Dr. Seuss books. Each student will receive a brand new Dr. Seuss book. After reading to students, volunteers will pass out these books.

**9-11a.m. – James E. Moss Elementary:** students will be dressing up as Dr. Seuss characters, classrooms will be decorating their doors, and volunteers from American Express will be reading books to the students. The volunteers will also hand out books to students who win the costume contest raffle.

**10-11:30a.m. – Granger Elementary:** 50 volunteers from CHG will read to Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from new Dr. Seuss books. Students will also assemble Dr. Seuss hats, which they will wear for the rest of the day.

The national event, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, is designed to encourage students to find the fun in reading. This message is especially important to these elementary schools involved – many are Title 1 schools, where 70-90 percent of students receive free or reduced lunch. Nearly all these students face economic or language barriers, creating additional academic challenges for them to overcome.

Participating elementary schools are United Way of Salt Lake Community Schools and part of collaborative partnerships with the Granite Education Foundation and Granite School District and dozens of nonprofit organizations. Community Schools serve as a resource for students, families, and the broader community. These schools create a web of support focused on improving academic outcomes for low-income students. Partners align academic programs and other resources such as financial stability, health and basic needs programs at the school.

Join the conversation: #UtahKidsFirst

###

**United Way of Salt Lake is working to advance the education, income, and health of our neighborhoods and communities to ensure that every child succeeds, every step of the way, from cradle to career. We invite everyone to be a part of the change. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED. Join the conversation by visiting our blog at [uwsllhub.org](http://uwsllhub.org), or find out more at [uw.org](http://uw.org).**