Phoenix Chapter Reading and Literacy

Book Club Buddies Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Monthly from September - November and January – May

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $1,000

**Partnerships**

St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School and its 4th and 5th grade teachers

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? They provide the 4th and 5th graders for the program, group the children within each grade level, participate in evaluation.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 36

Age range of clients served: 9-11

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 14

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? Volunteers help prepare the materials for the year, meet in small groups with the children to introduce and discuss the books with the children, lead creative activities on the books following the discussions, provide snacks for the children, offer suggestions on how to improve the project, suggest ideas related to book discussions, evaluate the program's effectiveness, and suggest other books for future use in the program.

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: to promote reading and writing literacy, oral communication opportunities, a love of reading, and creativity.

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? 6 chapter books (one in Spanish to assist the school in its goal of being a dual language school) and accompanying writing and craft materials; a snack each month; a book as a Christmas gift and a book for summer reading.

During the summer volunteers plan, order, and organize materials for use during the year. The program chair orders and purchases the materials needed. The chair contacts the school office for number of students and emails the teachers in August to assist with dividing students into 4 groups each. She assigns volunteers for each group. Throughout the year the volunteers and teachers evaluate the process and make improvements.

Each month the children meet in small groups of 4-6 with their CCS Book Club Buddy(ies). Ideally, there are two CCS volunteers per group. In September the program is introduced to the students, and they are given nametags, tote bags, composition books, and copies of the Grace and Courtesy prayer that begins each session.

Monthly, each book is distributed and introduced with a coordinating bookmark and written exercise prompt.

The following month the same small groups discuss the book they have read. The students also share their written responses orally and complete a creative project related to the book. All craft materials are provided by CCS. The May session alternates: One year, the year's books are reviewed, and each group creates a pop-up on one of the books which are compiled onto a poster for the classroom. The alternate year a dramatic presentation related to one of the books is performed by each group. Each session ends with a simple snack.

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