

Elementary school Accelerated Reader program high-point winners announced

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Sixteen Holyoke Elementary students were recognized as high-point winners in the school's Accelerated Reader (AR) program at a presentation Monday, May 24 at Holyoke Elementary School (HES).

High-point winners include kindergartners Cade Killin, Lauren Herman and Bryton Goldenstein; first graders Rylan Archibeque, Emali Torres and Jillian Warren; second graders Josie Herman, Tristen Roll and Monique Ruybal; third graders Maura Castillo and Kelyn Goldenstein; fourth graders Drew Stewart and Anna Jelden; and fifth graders Logan Osborne, Tara Krueger and Austin Herman.

Osborne and Herman were also recognized as the girl and boy who earned the highest points in the entire school.

Students participate in the AR program as a means of being exposed to quality literature, to improve listening skills, increase comprehension of story information and to experience good oral reading models that will improve fluency.

Beginning in kindergarten, students are paired with fifth grade big buddies who visit their classrooms twice a month to read and discuss library books.

Students then take computerized comprehension tests which are scored automatically and points are recorded. The combination of good listening on the part of younger students, effective reading and questioning strategies from big buddies, a super support from home provides a strong literacy foundation to the youngest students.

As students progress through the grades, they become more independent and take personal responsibility for reading the books and taking the tests. At all grade levels, goals are set throughout the year as well as a year-end goal.

Rewards are a fun part of the program with a swimming party traditionally featured as the

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culminating activity for those students who attain their goal.

“The AR program has been a vital component of literacy development at HES for over 20 years,” Title I teacher Mary Austin said.

The program was expanded this year to allow nearly every book in the school as well as at Heginbotham Library to be utilized as an AR book. There is also a section of Spanish reading books.