

October 10, 2014

Dear Patrons,

Cavalcade of Authors is collaborating with Columbia Basin College (CBC), the The Dream Builders Foundation, Children's Reading Foundation and Mid-Columbia Lit Fest to present a literary/writing conference for middle school and high school students in Benton and Franklin counties. The program is comprised of two components: 1) students reading novels from 17 featured authors and 2) a writer's conference led by these featured authors to be held at Columbia Basin College, March 13, 2015. We are excited to welcome the following authors this year: Ellen Hopkins, Neal Shusterman, Lauren Kate, Tera Lynn Childs, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Alexander Gordon Smith, Alyson Noel, Allen Zadoff, Jennifer Bradbury, Jennifer Nielsen, Lish McBride, Kimberly Derting, Mike Graf, Dale Basye, Kazu Kibuishi, Nathan Wilson and Terry Lynn Johnson. These authors have been extremely popular with our students (and other teens) and their books are flying off our shelves.

Approaching its seventh year, the Cavalcade of Authors has grown from 70 students and one middle school in Richland with a \$4,000 budget to 1000 students from 28 secondary schools in the Tri-Cities, Connell, Yakima and Umatilla school districts in 2014. We are looking to raise nearly \$40,000 this year to help pay for our 17 authors and to seed for the following year. To meet the demand of the increased numbers of schools and students that want to participate this year while working to minimize the amount of money schools must pay, we are requesting sponsorships of up to \$5,000.

Adolescent literacy is a significant need in our community and this program promotes reading and writing skills in an engaging and unique way. The response from students, teachers, as well as the authors has been positive and encouraging. It is our hope that the program will grow and expand to become a truly regional event that draws all students from throughout the Southeastern Washington region.

Please join us in promoting literacy in our community. We want to pass on the love for books in our world that is slowly beginning to devalue the wonder of reading: We love feeling the heft of the book in our hand, turning the pages, escaping for a moment into an imaginary world, the satisfaction in completing a literary work, and the lifelong treasure trove of books we line up on our shelves. We want this for the future generation. The Cavalcade of Authors is the very lifetime experience that will inspire the love of the printed word deep in the hearts of our children giving us hope for the generations to follow. Please join us in keeping this love alive!

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

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