



PRESS RELEASE

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900 HISD Second Graders to Receive a New Book to Read over the Summer Break

Board President Paula Harris to Present Books on the Last Day of School

June 2, 2011 - Second graders at a dozen HISD elementary schools will receive a gift on the last day of school; a gift of learning. Thanks to the generosity of the South Central Region Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and HISD Board President Paula Harris, 900 students will go home with a brand new book.

Mrs. Harris and officers of Jack and Jill of America will personally hand out books to second graders at MacGregor Elementary School (4801 LaBranch, 77004) on Friday, June 3, at 10:00 a.m.

Board President Harris is a champion of literacy issues in the district. She was one of the founders of the successful Real Men Read program, which recruits professional men to read to students in HISD schools and share their love of reading.

Mrs. Harris said, "As we begin summer vacation, there is no more important foundation for the next school year, than for our students to read. Research shows that students tend to lose some of the knowledge they've gained during the summer break, unless they are avid readers."

HISD students are encouraged to take part in the Millionaire Club Reading Program over the summer. The program, which is a partnership between HISD and the Houston Public Library, encourages every student to read five books over the summer. If 200,000 students did that, one million books would be read. For more information on the Millionaire Club go to <http://www.hisdlibraryservices.org/millionaire/>

About Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

The late Marion Stubbs Thomas founded Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated on January 24, 1938 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Twenty mothers came together to discuss creating an organization to provide

social, cultural and educational opportunities for youth between the ages of two and nineteen. In 1946, ten chapters were involved in the national restructuring process. Today, Jack and Jill boasts more than 220 chapters nationwide, representing over 30,000 family members. Each chapter plans annual activities, to stimulate the growth and development of children.

The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 298 schools and more than 200,000 students. The 301-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with nearly 30,000 employees. **For more information, visit the HISD Web site at www.houstonisd.org.**
