



Local School Reads to Help Students Across The Globe

This December, students at Monticello Montessori school will be participating in a reading challenge to raise funds for a school in Ghana, West Africa.

Ammon, December 2018 - Reading incentive programs usually give goodies to the person doing the reading. But, what if someone else benefitted as well? This Christmas season, students at Monticello Montessori school are partnering with the Golden Sunbeam Foundation to do just that. Their efforts spent reading will raise funds for Golden Sunbeam Montessori, a rural charity school in Ghana.

Just as a marathon runner collects pledges for charity to motivate him or herself to complete a grueling race, these elementary students will collect pledges to donate a penny amount per minute spent reading during their Reading Marathon. More minutes spent reading means more money raised and sent to students in Ghana.

"It really is a win-win scenario," states Natasha Ohene Opare, president of the Golden Sunbeam Foundation. "Students who struggle with reading are more motivated to push themselves. And those who enjoy it can see their talents being used to benefit others." Not only are reading skills improved in this effort, but also math, geography and social presentation abilities as students calculate funds to collect and solicit parents, relatives, and neighbors for pledges.

100% of the funds collected will be sent overseas to help students in the rural village of Essem in Ghana. Essem has little electricity but is the site of the non-profit private school, Golden Sunbeam Montessori. Funds raised will help pay teachers, maintain classrooms, and provide school supplies for more than 40 students who otherwise have little chance of education. Donations can also be made to supply farming supplies to recent graduates in Agribusiness classes.

Golden Sunbeam Montessori school has been supporting students in poverty for over 10 years, but this year, financial concerns have driven the headmistress to look for outside sources of support. Golden Sunbeam Foundation was established by Idaho Falls residents Natasha and Emmanuel Ohene Opare with the aim of helping this school continue its work in teaching children and youth. They have high goals of building self-reliance in individuals to help people grow out of poverty. More information can be found at www.GoldenSunbeamFoundation.org

The Reading Marathon will take place in Monticello classrooms the week of December 10th to 14th. "I think it's a good thing!" comments Dante, a 4th grader at Monticello Montessori. "I like that I can help other people."

Monticello Montessori, a public charter school in Bonneville County, welcomes all students in Bonneville County and the surrounding area to apply. The school provides a high-quality Montessori education, tuition-free to children ages 5 through 14 (grades Kindergarten through 8th). The Idaho Public Charter School Commission approved the Monticello charter July 22, 2009.

Through a Montessori-inspired approach to learning, students will maximize their inner potentials and experience purpose and meaning in life, take responsibility for their own education, cultivate personal dignity and develop independence and purpose in life.

Persons interested in supporting Monticello students as they serve others during this season of giving can contact the school for more information.

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