

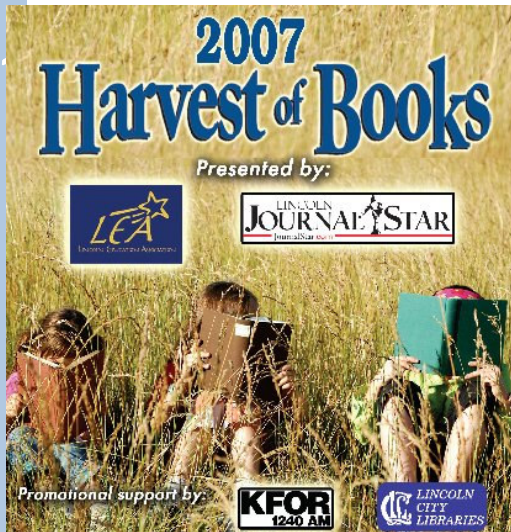
LEAdvocate

Issue # 5 – November 1, 2007

*A Basic Right...
A Great
Public School
for Every
Child.*

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A Publication by the
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The 2007 Harvest of Books Count Has Begun!!!!

Boxes of books have begun to fill LEA's halls and various rooms and our wonderful volunteers are starting to sort through them, adding labels and sorting the books for future counts for distribution to the schools. Everyone has their fingers crossed that we have met our goal—something that we won't know for awhile.

In the meantime, we thought you might find some of the comments from the blogs at the *Lincoln Journal Star* (our partner in the Harvest) web site of interest. [The comments below are unedited—complete with multiple errors in some cases—unless the blog entry was shortened. Omitted words/sentences have been indicated with the use of ellipsis (...)].

What are members of the public saying about the Harvest? Typically, some people question the importance of why the Harvest only collects *new* books and an occasional cynic sees a possible conspiracy between the publishers, book stores, and the Harvest. A few people would rather see children better utilize the city libraries. But **here are some blog entries that have brightened our day** and we hope they will do so for you, too—indications that **this Association outreach program, now in its eleventh year, has meaning for the children of Lincoln and our community:**

"The goal is to give each child one or two BRAND-NEW books of their very own. There are a lot of children in Lincoln that have never had new things of their own and only receive hand-me-downs (clothes, toys, etc.)--a brand-new book is a very special gift..." (10/16/2007)

"...a brand new book... gives them a sense of pride and ownership. Not all kids have that and this really means a lot to these children. There other means to donate used books, this is a great opportunity to help instill a love of reading for the children of Lincoln." (10/16/2007)

"Maybe instead of giving for birthdays, boss's day, etc. you make a contribution to harvest of Books in someone's honor. Just a thought!" (10/16/2007)

"My children have been lucky enough to have had gifts of beautiful new books from us, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Many children in Lincoln do not have new clothing, let alone new books of their very own. We contribute to this event, and we also donate good used books to the various charities around town such as the Women's shelter." (10/16/2007)

“Thank you for being there for my daughter.”

"my daughter received her first boo from this drive when she was in first grade at harley elementary. I have always told my daughter that what she gets out of a book no one can take that away. they can take her clothes, toys, pride and dignity but what she learns out of a book no one can take away. My daughter is now a freshman at lincoln high school and loves to read on sunny or rainy days and i cannot keep enough books for her to read. she goes to the library and checks out 2 books every other week and reads them from front to back in that time. i believe that without this program my daughter would not of had a chance too learn the lesson from others that i started and would of given up. thank you for being there for my daughter." (10/17/2007)



"The idea that children are given a book from someone send the message the EVERYONE cares about their well being. I can't tell you how excited the children in my school are when they are given books, without asking, just because people in their community care about them. Yes, there are students that receive books that can afford to buy their own, but there are many more that can't afford to buy books and these are the ONLY ones they have. Not all books are expensive. Many times, I purchase them for less than a dollar through book orders at school. Yes, gas prices are high, yes, food is more expensive. Think about it, skip Starbucks for ONE day and you have enough money in your pocket to buy one book AND probably enough left over to get yourself a soda at work." (10/18/2007)

"The books are gifts to these kids. Yes, a used book can be enjoyed just as much as a new book. But, imagine being a 7 year old from a poor family who has never been given a new book. Think how much you would cherish the crack of the spine when you open it for the first time, the smell of the ink and new paper. Those experiences, not just the stories themselves, help promote a life long love of reading. That is why the need to be new books." (10/19/2007)

We'll report on the final Harvest numbers and thank our many volunteers in a future issue!

*Our thanks to everyone who helped support the
2007 Harvest of Books!*

Distribution of the books will be during the week of November 19th!

Urban Myths # 5



Say it isn't so! Did you know that famous TV Chef Julia Child once dropped a turkey on the floor while filming one of her programs, dusted the bird off, and continued to cook the bird, saying to the camera, "Remember, you're alone in the kitchen and what they don't know won't hurt them!"

It isn't so! Other versions of the myth include Julia Child dropping a chicken leg on the floor while filming and trying to kick it out of view of the camera. Myths often surround popular people in the public eye.

Here is another "urban myth" that appears to linger on within LPS of which you should be aware:

The LPS calendar has snow days built into it and when school isn't closed for bad weather, we should be able to remove those days from the end of the year, otherwise we're working longer than we need to and not getting paid for it. **False!**

All LPS certificated staff are under contract for and are paid for 191 teacher days in 2007-2008. A teacher's number of contract days has little to do with the number of hours that students must receive instruction according to the Department of Education and the number of hours vary per grade level. LPS has long maintained the philosophy that LPS is not an "average" school district and meeting the number of minimum hours of student instruction is not sufficient for Lincoln children.



Should there be inclement weather, the *LEA-LPS Professional Agreement* in Article 5-5 states “certificated employees will not be required to make up the first two student days canceled due to inclement weather in each contract year.” LPS could require teachers to make up time with their students if there are more than two days of closing, but currently LPS can afford to have students miss more than two days of instruction due to school closing and still meet Nebraska Dept. of Ed requirements.

LPS has also learned in the past that there is no easy way to make up for lost instruction due to school closing. Adding to the length of the day to get added minutes does not always guarantee quality instructional time and both that and adding days that were not school days already tend to inconvenience parents as well as older students who have responsibilities outside of school. It is because of problems in the past such as those listed, that a number of years ago LPS added eight minutes to the elementary student instructional day (no changes were made in the length of the teacher day and no plan time was taken away), in order to assure that if schools have to close, elementary students who would sometimes fall below the state requirement for student hours of instruction, would be in considerably less danger of doing so again unless LPS has to close for an inordinate amount of time.