



SMART - Start Making A Reader Today®



SMART eNews: Winter 2008

SMART Stories

For the past two years [Representative Kim Thatcher](#) has been a faithful reader at [Yoshikai Elementary school in Salem](#). Last year she read with a sweet third grader, who literally recognized about ten words. The Yoshikai's Speech Language Therapist observed her reading time with this boy to see how he reacted to others. The observation resulted in a letter to Yoshikai principal, Zan Payne, honoring Kim with a Life Skill compliment for "using the Life Skills of Caring, Patience, Perseverance and Resourcefulness while volunteering here at Yoshikai." The letter continued with wonderful compliments such as "the student really seemed to thrive with her help in reading. She was very perceptive in knowing when he was getting tired and continued to gently guide him during the 1:1 session. Her willingness to go the extra mile with this student will make a huge difference in his education."

This year Kim chose to read during the lunch hour, but during this year's February legislative session, Kim's schedule includes mornings of committee meetings and afternoons in session. Rather than take a February "vacation" from SMART, Kim asked her assistant to try and work out a different schedule so she wouldn't have to miss! Obviously, her level of commitment to her SMART children has been a huge encouragement to them and to their teachers!

Are you a SMART supporter, volunteer, staff or alumni? Tell us your SMART story!

Did you know SMART has turned sweet 16?

In January 1992, SMART opened for service in 8 Oregon schools (4 each in Deschutes and Multnomah counties) providing 585 children with literacy support.

Today we serve 11,600 children in 271 schools across 32 Oregon counties. SMART has impacted the lives of more than 100,000 children since inception. Now that's something to celebrate!

SMART Tax Check-Off

How can you inspire little readers while sitting at your desk? Donate all or a portion of your tax refund to SMART! Learn more about the [Oregon Charitable Checkoff here](#). Download your [2007 Oregon tax form](#), and Start Making A Reader Today!

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