

TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL TO HOST READING ROCK STARS AUTHOR PRESENTATIONS

Renowned Children's Book Authors to Perform at Emiliano Zapata Elementary School on March 3

WHAT: The Texas Book Festival will host one of its Reading Rock Stars presentations on Friday, March 3 at Emiliano Zapata Elementary School. Beginning at 8:45 a.m., the school will host three authors — internationally award-winning author-illustrator **Duncan Tonatiuh**; **Emma J. Virján**, author-illustrator of the very funny *What This Story Needs Is...* children's book series; and novelist and Latino literature and arts activist **Diana López** —who will share lively readings of their books and talk with students.

The Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars literacy program brings books to life for children in low-income schools by inviting authors and illustrators into classrooms with entertaining presentations that inspire students to read, write, and create. The Texas Book Festival also gives each student an autographed copy of each author's book and provides the school library with a new set of books. After each presentation, the author personally hands a book to each student.

The students of Emiliano Zapata Elementary will give back to the presenting authors and the Reading Rock Stars program by entertaining them with a performance by the school's mariachi band at 1:00 p.m. following the authors' literary presentations.

Reading Rock Stars has coordinated more than 330 author visits and provided more than 78,000 books to students in Title I schools across Texas since its inception.

For more information on the Texas Book Festival and Reading Rock Stars, please visit www.texasbookfestival.org.

WHO: Duncan Tonatiuh – *The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes*
Emma J. Virján – *What This Story Needs Is a Bang and a Clang*
Diana López – *Nothing Up My Sleeve*

WHEN: Friday, March 3
8:45 a.m. – 2nd Grade - Duncan Tonatiuh (library)
9:45 a.m. – 3rd Grade - Duncan Tonatiuh (library)
9:00 a.m. – Pre K & Kindergarten - Emma J. Virján (cafeteria)
9:45 a.m. – Kindergarten & 1st Grade - Emma J. Virján (cafeteria)
10:50 a.m. – 4th Grade - Diana Lopez (library)
11:50 a.m. – 5th Grade - Diana Lopez (library)

WHERE: Emiliano Zapata Elementary – library and cafeteria
9100 N La Homa Rd, Mission, TX 78574

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

The Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former First Lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the one-day Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, youth fiction writing contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 275 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2017 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place on November 4 and 5. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.