



**TEXAS  
BOOK  
FESTIVAL**

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February 27, 2015

**Famed children's authors will bring books life  
for students at Emiliano Zapata, Woodrow Wilson**

***Reading Rock Stars presentations to take place March 5-6***

**WHAT**

The Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars program in Rio Grande Valley will host nationally known authors at five economically disadvantaged local public schools. The authors will present their literary works in an entertaining fashion, and at the end of the presentation every child will receive an autographed book. The Texas Book Festival will also donate a set of each author's books to the three school libraries. Media are invited to cover the author presentations at Emiliano Zapata Elementary and Woodrow Wilson Elementary schools.

**WHERE**

Emiliano Zapata Elementary, 9100 N. La Homa Rd., Mission, TX— MARCH 5  
Woodrow Wilson Elementary, 1200 Hackberry Ave. McAllen, TX— MARCH 6

**SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, March 5, from 8:15- 11 a.m. (Emiliano Zapata)**

8:15- 8:45 a.m.	Rene Saldana and Carolyn Dee Flores, pre-K and K, in the library
9- 9:45 a.m.	Pat Mora and Libby Martinez, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade, in the cafeteria
9:15- 10 a.m.	Rene Saldana, 4 <sup>th</sup> grade, in the library
10- 10:45 a.m.	Pat Mora and Libby Martinez, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade, in the cafeteria
10:15- 11 a.m.	Rene Saldana, 5 <sup>th</sup> grade, in the library

**Friday, March 6, from 8:30 a.m.- noon (Woodrow Wilson)**

8:30- 9 a.m.	Pat Mora and Libby Martinez, pre-K and K, in the library
9:15- 10 a.m.	Pat Mora and Libby Martinez, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade, in the gym
10:15- 11 a.m.	Lydia Gil, 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade, in the gym
11:15 a.m.- noon	Lydia Gil, 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> grade, in the gym

## **WHO**

- More than 750 students, grades pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup>, at Emiliano Zapata; and more than 500 students, grades pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup>, at Woodrow Wilson
- [Rene Saldana Jr.](#) and [Carolyn Dee Flores](#), author and illustrator of the bilingual counting picture book for kids, “*Dale, Dale, Dale / Hit It, Hit It, Hit It: Una Fiesta de Números / A Fiesta of Numbers*”
- [Pat Mora](#) and [Libby Martinez](#), mother/daughter duo who co-wrote the children’s book “*I Pledge Allegiance*” about positive intergenerational experiences of U.S immigration and citizenship
- [Lydia Gil](#), author of the bilingual children’s picture book “*Letters from Heaven / Cartas del cielo*”
- The [Texas Book Festival](#)’s literary director, Steph Opitz; and logistics and outreach coordinator, Kendall Miller
- Emiliano Zapata’s principal, Bertha Perez; and librarian, Gracie Guajardo
- Woodrow Wilson’s principal, Kristine Garza; and librarian, Virginia Barnhart

## **VISUALS**

Kids of all ages; famous children’s authors; large banners and welcome signs for authors plastered all over the school; a library cart full of brand-new, signed books; stage with book-themed decorations including posters of book covers, cut-outs of authors, and props for interactive parts of the presentations.

## **BACKGROUND**

Since 2001, the Texas Book Festival has given more than 60,000 books to kids at Title I schools in Texas through its Reading Rock Stars program in Austin, the Rio Grande Valley, and Houston. For many children, it is the first book they have ever owned.

“The festival does not send authors to speak to the children of privilege, rather to the children of hope—all from Title 1 schools. And the event is about more than just one day. Committed teachers and librarians build excitement in the students through creative activities, art and writing projects, guiding them to find their own voices and put their dreams into words... To own an \$18 picture book is a luxury the vast majority of children in the world can’t afford, but the Texas Book Festival makes sure thousands of children do,” says Monica Brown, past Reading Rock Stars author.

For more information about Texas Book Festival’s Reading Rock Stars program, please visit <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/reading-rock-stars/>.

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## **About the Texas Book Festival**

The Texas Book Festival celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by 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 280 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @texasbookfest.

### **About Reading Rock Stars**

The Texas Book Festival brings books to life for young readers through Reading Rock Stars, a dynamic program in which selected authors from across the country are invited to present their works to students in economically disadvantaged public schools. At the end of the presentations, each child receives an autographed copy of the book, and a set of books is also given to the school library. Originally created to serve children in the Austin area, the Reading Rock Stars program is expanding each year. With support from H-E-B's Tournament of Champions and Read 3 programs, The Wright Family Foundation, the ECG Foundation, the Tecumseh Foundation, the University of Texas-Pan American, Target, and other generous donors, Reading Rock Stars is now serving Austin, the Rio Grande Valley, and Houston. The Texas Book Festival makes a three-year commitment to each school it accepts, bringing in different authors and new books each year. <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/reading-rock-stars/>