



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL BRINGS READING ROCK STARS PROGRAM TO HOUSTON SCHOOLS ON MARCH 10, 2022

Texas Book Festival Returns to Four Houston Schools, Presenting Eleven Authors and Illustrators and Donating More than 2,000 Books to Elementary School Students

AUSTIN, TX (March 7, 2022) – On March 10, the Texas Book Festival returns to Houston to visit four elementary schools as part of the Festival’s annual Reading Rock Stars program. Throughout the day, eleven nationally-acclaimed children’s authors and illustrators will visit each school and present to students, a culmination of weeks of each school’s preparation for the program. Additionally, TBF will gift each student a copy of the visiting author or illustrator’s book.

TBF will donate more than 2,000 books to classrooms at Wilson Elementary School, Thompson Elementary School, Harris Elementary School, and Magrill Primary School.

With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival will have given more than 133,000 books to students in elementary schools across Texas since the program’s inception.

The Texas Book Festival’s Reading Rock Stars literacy program brings books to life for children in elementary schools by inviting authors and illustrators into classrooms with entertaining presentations that inspire students to read, write, and create. Thanks to generous support from sponsor H-E-B and many individual donors, the Texas Book Festival gives each student an autographed copy of their author’s book and provides the school library with a new set of books by the visiting Reading Rock Stars authors. After each presentation, the author personally hands an autographed copy of their book to each student.

The award-winning authors and illustrators featured in this year’s program include Andrea Wang, author of the Newberry Honor and Caldecott Medal picture book *Watercress*, and Varian Johnson, author of the Texas Institute of Letters awarded middle-grade book, *Playing the Cards You’re Dealt*.

“We are thrilled to be back in Houston for Reading Rock Stars,” says TBF School & Community Programs Coordinator Michelle Hernandez. “Reading Rock Stars day is the culmination of the partnership and collaboration between school librarians and teachers, children’s book authors, and Texas Book Festival staff to bring an exciting and memorable experience to students focused on reading, writing, and the joy and magic of books.”

For more information on the Texas Book Festival and its Reading Rock Stars and Real Reads literacy programs, please visit texasbookfestival.org.

WHO:

Chris Barton
Nidhi Chanani
Tonya Duncan Ellis
Xavier Garza
Varian Johnson
Jasminne Mendez
Anna Meriano
Nicholas Solis
Carmen Tafolla
Brittany Thurman
Andrea Wang

WHEN: March 10, 2022

WHERE:

Wilson Elementary School
Thompson Elementary School
Harris Elementary School
Magrill Primary School

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With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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 Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars elementary school program, the Real Reads middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, 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, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities. The 2022 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place November 5-6. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.