



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL TO HOST READING ROCK STARS PRESENTATIONS AT 10 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN AUSTIN ON NOVEMBER 10

Reading Rock Stars Program Will Donate Over 4,600 Books to Austin Students

WHAT: Texas Book Festival (TBF) is thrilled to bring back the impactful school literacy program Reading Rock Stars for students at 10 Austin-area schools on Friday, November 10. The Texas Book Festival's Reading Rock Stars program brings books to life for children in Title I schools by inviting authors and illustrators into schools with entertaining presentations that inspire students to read, write and create. The Reading Rock Stars presentations in Austin will feature 30 participating authors and illustrators, all of whom are taking part in the 2023 festival, and TBF will donate over 4,600 books to students across Austin.

Thanks to presenting sponsor H-E-B Read 3, as well as supporting sponsors ECG Foundation, Wright Family Foundation, Springhouse Foundation, and MFI Foundation. The Texas Book Festival provides each student with a signed copy of the author's book and provides the school library with a new set of books by the visiting Reading Rock Stars authors. The authors will present to classes in-person and then personally hand out signed copies of their books to students in Pre-K to Grade 6.

With this latest round of Reading Rock Stars, the Texas Book Festival has coordinated more than 730 author visits and provided nearly 167,000 books to students in Title I schools in Dallas, Fort Worth, the Rio Grande Valley, Houston, El Paso and Austin since its inception. This year alone, the Texas Book Festival provided nearly 16,000 books to students in 28 schools across Texas.

Media are invited to cover the Reading Rock Stars program at Bluebonnet Trail Elementary school. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., the school will host three authors who are part of the 2023 TBF Lineup – Jarrett and Jerome Pumphrey, who will present *Link + Hud: Heroes by a Hair*, Derrick Barnes, who will present *Like Lava in My Veins*; and Laekan Zea Kemp, who will present *A Crown for Corina*. The Texas Book Festival will donate a total of 628 books to Bluebonnet Trail Elementary students.

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

MEDIA SCHOOL INFORMATION:

WHO: **Jarrett and Jerome Pumphrey** - *Link + Hud: Heroes by a Hair*
Derrick Barnes - *Like Lava in My Veins*
Laekan Zea Kemp - *A Crown for Corina*

WHEN: Friday, November 10

Bluebonnet Trail Elementary School

8:00 a.m. - Grade 4 - Jarrett and Jerome Pumphrey - Gym
8:00 a.m. - Grade 2 - Derrick Barnes - Library
8:55 a.m. - Grade 6 - Jarrett and Jerome Pumphrey - Gym
8:55 a.m. - Grade 1 - Laekan Zea Kemp - Library
9:50 a.m. - Grade 5 - Jarrett and Jerome Pumphrey - Gym
9:50 a.m. - Kindergarten - Laekan Zea Kemp - Library
10:45 a.m. - Grade 3 - Derrick Barnes - Gym

WHERE: Bluebonnet Trail Elementary School

11316 Farmhaven Rd
Austin, TX 78754

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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 Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries and year-round literary programming. This year's Texas Book Festival will take place from Nov. 11–12, with events taking place in downtown Austin and at the Texas Capitol, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings and activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, the festival remains free and open to the public. Learn more at texasbookfestival.org.

Interview Schedule:

- Chicago Business Journal - 12:00 PM CT
 - Journalist: Alez Zorn
 - Bio: Alex covers commercial real estate and economic development for the Chicago Business Journal. He also writes about startups and technology for Chicago Inno.
 - DIAL IN: 512-686-4358
 - PIN: 95048
- Chicago tribune - 12:15 PM CT
 - Journalist: Talia Soglin
 - Bio: Talia Soglin is a business reporter for the Chicago Tribune covering food, groceries, retail and labor. Before joining the Tribune, she reported for Injustice Watch and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.
 - DIAL IN: 512-879-4875
 - PIN: 82739
- BevNET - 12:30 PM CT
 - Journalist: Lukas Southard
 - Bio: Lukas Southard is a Reporter covering the food and beverage industries across BevNET and NOSH.

- DIAL IN: 512-686-4358
- PIN: 95048