

## “Reading is an Investment”™ Kicks-off at High Lakes Elementary Oct. 23

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

State Treasurer Randall Edwards will join Bend-La Pine Schools Superintendent Doug Nelson for the kick-off of Reading is an Investment, a new literacy and financial education program for elementary school children, at High Lakes Elementary on Monday, Oct. 23 at 10 a.m. Edwards and Nelson will read to 4th and 5th graders from one of the books donated to the school library through the program. Edwards says he is visiting schools across the state throughout October to promote this long-term investment in the financial education of Oregon’s young students. “Financial literacy is no longer the language of accountants and investment professionals,” said Edwards. “People of all walks of life need to understand the basics of money. Reading is an Investment is a fun and rewarding way to encourage children to read, and to start building the foundation of basic financial knowledge that they can use throughout their lives.” As part of the program, children are encouraged to read a certain number of hours from a specific list of books that teach basic financial concepts. After completing the required hours, children will receive a certificate of achievement from the State Treasurer, fun prizes and entrance into a drawing for a chance to win one of 50 college savings plan account scholarships that will be awarded in April 2007. Edwards says Reading is an Investment is designed to highlight the importance of reading and to teach basic financial concepts to young children. Treasurer Edwards, in partnership with the Oregon College Savings Plan and OppenheimerFunds, Inc., donated three books to every public elementary school library in Oregon. Each book has its own set of curriculum and activities, developed by a group of Oregon teachers and librarians, and is tied to the State standards in Math, Language Arts, Social Sciences and Career-related Learning.

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