

## Chalkboard Project Delivers Books to Bend Children

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

More than 450 kindergarten through third grade R.E. Jewell Elementary School students were given the gift of literacy on Thursday, thanks to the Chalkboard Project. Each student received a new book to take home, in either English or Spanish, on September 28. Chalkboard Project's Shirley Skidmore says the donation will help reinforce the importance of building a strong foundation in reading. "Research tells us that children who are proficient readers by third grade are more likely to meet grade-level targets in the years to come," she said, "Our goal, and the goal of the Bend-La Pine Schools, is to ensure that every child have the opportunity to become a proficient reader by the end of third grade." R.E. Jewell Elementary School Principal Bruce Reynolds, Bend-La Pine Schools Deputy Superintendent Ron Wilkinson and Chalkboard Project board member Doug Stamm joined Skidmore for the book distribution at the school located at 20550 Murphy Road in Bend, Oregon. About the Chalkboard Project Chalkboard Project is a non-partisan, non-profit group that works to ensure high quality teachers in every classroom and high-quality principals in every school; provide more support to early learners; increase financial accountability and strengthen school system funding.

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