

**PRESS RELEASE 0405-17**  
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## **CHECK IT OUT – AT THE LIBRARY!**

The Library Program at El Morro Elementary School offers a variety of ways to engage children in reading. Under the direction of Claudia Cameron, students have the opportunity to participate in Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), Eager Reader Club, Student Treasures, and Bookworms in addition to their regular school library time.

RIF is the nation's leading non-profit children's literacy organization whose mission is to motivate children to read often and read well. Each year, El Morro holds three free book distributions each with their own theme and motivational activity designed to promote children's desire to read. Children select books on their own and through this dynamic program these young readers connect reading with fun.

The Eager Reader Club is an informal club with about 100 members designed to improve each child's reading habits as well as encouraging parents and adults to read to children. The club strengthens ties between library and home with each child keeping a reading log that is recognized at their school library time. At the end of the school year, the club, along with their principal, Chris Duddy, celebrates their love of reading with an ice cream party.

Student Treasures is a unique opportunity for each child to write and illustrate their own book. Student manuscripts are sent to a publisher where they are hard-bound. Many students donate their hard-bound editions to the El Morro School Library.

Bookworms are a PTA sponsored after-school club that is open for 1-3 grades and held once a week in the library. Students read fun books, compare favorite passages, and discuss characters' behaviors and feelings, and story plots. Activities associated with books are explored as a way to expand children's responses to literature.

This December the Student Council and the library will hold their used book sale. The recycled books are available for 25 cents to a dollar. Proceeds go to the library and students have the opportunity to fill their bags with great books!

Mr. Duddy expresses his appreciation for the Library's leadership, "Mrs. Cameron's love for reading is contagious and she is infecting the children with this love. She always keeps her focus on children enjoying reading and does whatever it takes to keep children thinking of reading as fun."