



PRESS RELEASE

Rialto Unified School District
Director of Media Services/Communications
Syeda Jafri

District Celebrates Third Grade Reading Proficiency Gains, Through *Footsteps2Brilliance*

Rialto, CA – May 4, 2018 – The Rialto Unified School District strategic priority to have all pre-kindergarten to third grade students read proficiently at grade level by third grade, has experienced tremendous traction, within five months.

Fall to winter benchmark assessments demonstrated a marked improvement in reading proficiency scores in grades 1-3rd, putting more students on the path to reading at grade level by third grade. During the 2017-18 school year, RUSD Superintendent **Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila** challenged primary students to Footsteps2Brilliance's literacy solution to read at least 15 minutes, per day. As documented by the District-wide fall and winter scores, 100 percent of elementary schools performed with double digit reading gains across first, second and third grades.

"We are pleased with the early indicators of success attributable to the implementation of Footsteps2Brilliance in our classrooms. Dr. Avila has set the goal of every child reading at grade level by third grade. We know we have the right tools in place to help us reach this goal. Footsteps2Brilliance is a key component of our strategy and we are observing the positive impact it is having with our students," stated **Kelly Bruce**, RUSD Lead Innovation Agent.

Teachers and students, alike, are noticing the impact of Footsteps2Brilliance at school and at home. "Dayannara is a very bright student who has taken it upon herself to use Footsteps2Brilliance on a day-to-day basis in and out of the classroom. Presently, she has read approximately 600 books with an average reading comprehension assessment of 80 percent or higher. Her growth in literacy from the beginning of the year has advanced at an accelerated rate," stated **Ann Evans**, teacher at Dollahan Elementary School.

Laura Reyes, who is a first grade teacher at Henry Elementary School was excited that her students are showing an increased interest in reading. She added, "Alexander loves to do Footsteps2Brilliance. So far his vocabulary word exposure has surpassed 129,071. He has read over 140 books. Alexander's reading has improved greatly."

"We encourage every family with children ages birth to third grade to register on Footsteps2Brilliance for a free account at www.myf2b.com and begin using it with their children at least 15 minutes each day. Footsteps2Brilliance makes it easier than ever for families to spend time on literacy with their children because it is free, accessible on any smart mobile device and does not require internet once downloaded," said **Jasmin Valenzuela**, RUSD Lead Academic Agent, Liberal Arts and Literacy/Intervention.

Footsteps2Brilliance CEO and Co-Founder, **Ilene Rosenthal**, said, "The strong emphasis that Rialto Unified School District has placed on early literacy development is demonstrating significant gains in student achievement, which translates into more children finding success in school. We are proud to be a partner in this important work and applaud Superintendent Avila and his team for their success in changing the trajectory for the students and families of Rialto."

For more information on the District Literacy Initiative, please contact Mrs. Valenzuela, at (909) 820-7700, ext. 2140.



RIALTO USD CELEBRATES DRAMATIC GAINS TOWARD 3RD GRADE READING PROFICIENCY AFTER IMPLEMENTING FOOTSTEPS2BRILLIANCE IN EVERY CLASSROOM



April 5, 2018

Superintendent Avila's strategic priority to have all students reading proficiently by 3rd grade is experiencing tremendous traction—in just 5 months! During the 2017-18 school year, Dr. Avila required all students to utilize Footsteps2Brilliance's literacy solution at least 15 minutes per day. As documented by their district-wide Fall and Winter scores, 100% of Rialto's elementary schools have already had double digit reading gains across 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades.

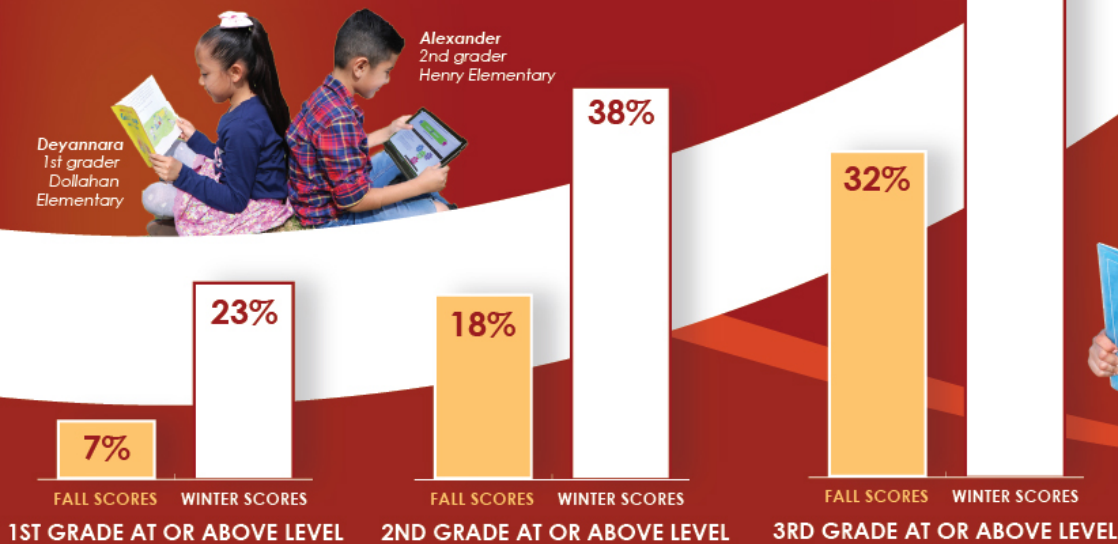


OVER 453 MILLION
WORDS READ

OVER 1.4 MILLION
BOOKS READ

OVER 112,000 HOURS
ON READING

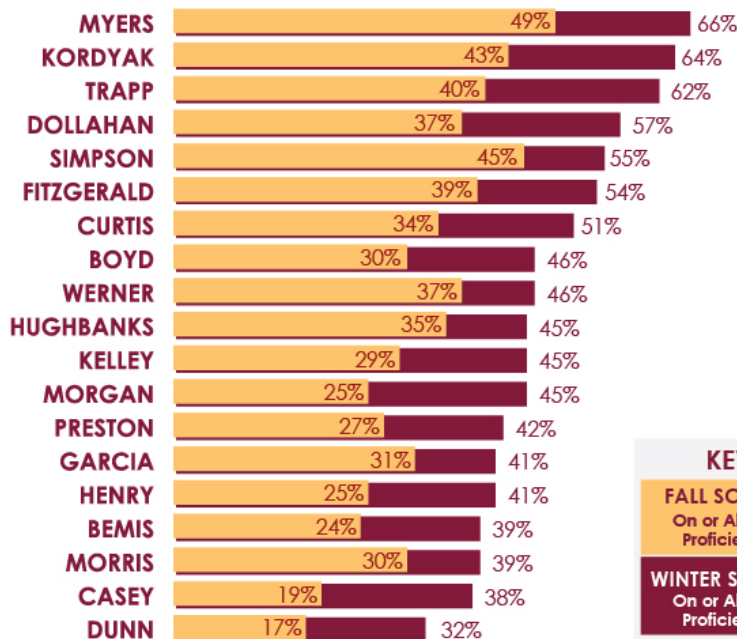
DISTRICT WIDE STRATEGIC GOAL: ALL 3RD GRADERS READING PROFICIENTLY



Raziel
3rd grader
Henry Elementary

Amiah
3rd grader
Werner Elementary

DRAMATIC GAINS IN 3RD GRADE



KEY

FALL SCORES
On or Above
Proficiency

WINTER SCORES
On or Above
Proficiency

TEACHER TESTIMONIALS



"Alexander loves to do Footsteps2Brilliance. He loves it so much that he is now eager to finish his school work so he can do Footsteps2Brilliance. So far his total vocabulary word exposure is 129,071. He has read over 140 books. His reading has improved greatly. Alexander got hooked on the program."

Mrs. Laura Reyes,
Teacher at Henry Elementary School



"Deyannara is a very bright student who has taken it upon herself to use Footsteps2Brilliance on a day-to-day basis in and out of the classroom. Presently, she has read approximately 600 books with an average reading comprehension assessment of 80% or higher. Her growth in literacy from the beginning of the year has advanced at an accelerated rate! Her primary home language is English and she has broadened her language fluency by also reading in Spanish using this program."

Mrs. Ann Evans
Teacher at Dollahan Elementary School