

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Springfield Public Schools Celebrates  
First-Ever Education Day**

*Celebration to include gift of books to nearly 1,000 Springfield first-graders and special reception for district supporters at Royal Caribbean Cruises*

**Eugene, Ore.** – Springfield Public Schools will celebrate its first-ever Springfield Education Day on Thursday, June 1. The Springfield School Board has declared Springfield Education Day an annual event to foster community engagement and honor community members who have contributed time and effort to ensuring student success in Springfield schools.

The celebration's two events will include the culmination of the district's yearlong Gift of Literacy project – a program designed to instill a love for reading in children – and a special "Wild About You" reception in honor of the district's community supporters.

- **Gift of Literacy Celebration**

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Lane Community College Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19

Nearly 1,000 Springfield first-graders will travel to Lane Community College for the Gift of Literacy celebration. Celebrity readers, including University of Oregon's women's basketball coach Bev Smith, KEZI's Rick Dancer and Korenza Burris, Congressman Peter DeFazio and Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken, will read to groups of 10 students in 30-minute intervals. The Oregon Duck mascot and other familiar animals, including Clifford and a character from the Bernstein Bears, will also attend to entertain the students. Additionally, each student will receive a new hardbound book, bookmark and bag. The Gift of Literacy is supported by the Springfield Rotary clubs and the TEAM Springfield partners, whose dedication and donation of time and financial resources has made the project possible.

- **Wild About You reception**

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., 1000 Royal Caribbean Way, Springfield

The Wild About You reception will honor 200 Springfield Public Schools' community supporters. Guests will enjoy food and wine and will be welcomed by emcee Rick Dancer of KEZI 9 News. Speakers will include Nancy Golden, Springfield school superintendent, and Laurie Adams, Springfield School Board chair, as well as teachers and students who will speak to the impact of valuable community support.

Springfield Public Schools strives for the academic excellence of all students. By providing a quality education guided by the community and outstanding teaching, the district aims to build a culture of trust and ensure positive learning opportunities. To learn more about the Gift of Literacy project, visit [www.giftofliteracy.org](http://www.giftofliteracy.org).

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