

North Boone

Community Unit School District 200

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Illinois State Library Recognizes North Boone Summer Program

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In the September 5, 2014 issue of the Illinois State Library's Weekly newsletter, This Week at the Illinois State Library,

North Boone's summer program to reach out to students without public library access was highlighted.

The article under the heading Stories from Illinois Libraries shared the success of the North Boone Books on Wheels program which converted a district activity bus into a bookmobile for the summer months.

Stories from Illinois Libraries

This week we highlight the **North Boone CUSD #200 in Poplar Grove** and its **"Books on Wheels" program**. None of the 1,700 students who attend school in the Poplar Grove district live within the boundaries of a public library. This presents a challenge, especially in the summer when reading skills have a tendency to drop if students' access to reading material is limited. To fix the problem, the district raised funds through grants, donations and fundraisers to keep several school libraries open throughout the summer, which allowed families to participate in summer reading programs and check out materials.

This year "Books on Wheels" was added to reach out to lower income families with limited transportation options. A small school bus owned by the district was repurposed for the summer and loaded with boxes of books for all reading levels. The bus made weekly rounds to three locations — two mobile home parks and one subdivision where many homes are in foreclosure. Students and their families board the bus and select books to borrow. "Books on Wheels" was a great success as students would congregate as soon as they saw the bus arrive. During the last week of the program, the district was able to give students books that were donated to the "Books on Wheels" program.

The State Library has received many heartfelt stories from around the state. Every week a different story has been posted in this section and all of the experiences have been shared. *Thank you to all who submitted an item!* If you would like to see your library in the ISL E-News, send your story to Kyle Peebles at kpeebles@ilsos.net

North Boone Community Unit School District 200 serves approximately 1700 students in pre-school through high school in the Villages of Caledonia, Capron and Poplar Grove as well as the northern tier of unincorporated Boone County, Illinois. For more information visit the NBCUSD website at www.nbcusd.org or contact Jane Lenser at 815-765-3322.