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Colusa County students break reading record

By Lynzie Lowe / l Lowe@appealdemocrat.com Jun 11, 2019

Colusa County students read a record breaking number of books during the last school year.

From Aug. 1, 2018 until May 23, 2019, the Colusa County Early Innovator teachers and students read a total of 14,594,893 words – or 50,228 books – as part of the Footsteps2Brilliance program.

“As we move into our third year of implementation of the Footsteps2Brilliance program, the results we have witnessed show not only progress in word exposure, but show students achieving an earlier acquisition of many of the deciphering skills needed to engage in dual language reading and learning,” said Michael West, Colusa County Superintendent of Schools. “County wide the total number of words read in both English and Spanish have increased yearly by 45 percent.”

Footsteps2Brilliance is a component of a countywide literacy project that promotes bilingual reading and writing skills to all Colusa County residents utilizing mobile technology. This comprehensive English and

Spanish Literacy App can be used on any mobile device or computer with or without an internet connection. The Footsteps2Brilliance App serves children in the community from birth through third grade and reaches children throughout the district's zip code jurisdiction.

The Footsteps2Brilliance program began in 2016 as part of Colusa County Office of Education's "And Literacy For All" initiative. Colusa County is one of only 12 counties in the state implementing this transformative literacy initiative that has been recognized by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

According to a press release, schools across Colusa County racked up a total of 5,431 hours of app usage time, with 2,355 hours of that on evenings and weekends.

Williams Elementary School ranked the highest in app usage, accumulating a total of 1,576 hours, followed by Burchfield Primary School with 1,155 hours and Maxwell Elementary with 574 hours.

Students participating in the program this year were exposed to 14,594,893 new vocabulary words and created 22,848 books.

"We look forward to continued growth and expansion of our early learner's dual language exposure and mastery," West said. "This program will lead to students entering the K-12 school system with an opportunity to be more prepared and achieve success earlier on their

educational journey. Our literacy tools allow all students, young and seasoned, to become incredibly productive not only in school, but as they enter the world as citizens of our County, State, and Country.”

AFootsteps2Brilliance has data-drive instruction and measurable results and is also said to increase parental involvement in a child’s reading.
