



SUCCESS STORIES FROM PILOT DISTRICTS

CASE STUDY

ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

READING BUDDIES CELEBRATION

Every year, at the conclusion of Reading Month (March), Hillcrest Elementary School thanks volunteer readers for their assistance with students by celebrating with a meal. Throughout the school year classrooms are paired with adults who take time out of their busy schedules to read to children, and the meal is an opportunity to share in the joy of mentorship, volunteerism, and reading for pleasure.

Pizza and chips used to be the center of the Reading Buddies celebration, but that no longer occurs. During the 2010-2011 school year, the menu was totally re-vamped, and included:

- Whole grain wraps with lean turkey breast and turkey ham
- Fresh apple slices
- Fresh grapes
- Carrot sticks with reduced-fat ranch dip
- 1% white milk
- Sugar-free fruit punch
- 100-calorie packs of “approved” snacks

The organizers received lots of compliments on the new and improved dinner, which was attended by nearly 200 people. Apple slices, grapes, and baby carrots were pre-packaged for ease of serving such a large group, and for food safety purposes.

They plan to continue with this for years to come.

