MetroWest Elementary School media specialist Lisa Waxler and PTA President Mark Leongomez suppo

R eading, writing and arithmetic have always been the corn

Like any other activity, the more children read, the better they become at reading. Not only does it help c

Books enable children to expand their critical-thinking skills. Mysteries allow readers to follow clues to co

However, despite the best efforts of some parents, they find it a difficult task to get their children to pick

Accelerated Reader, developed by Renaissance Learning, is a daily-progress monitoring-software asses

“The students love to work for the charms,” said MetroWest Elementary School media specialist Lisa Wa

Even the boys proudly wear their charm necklaces.

“We have found that the students also compete with each other,” Waxler said.

According to Waxler, the school has used the AR program since 1991. The program has been particular

Parents also can sign up to receive an email every time their child takes a test. In addition, they have ac

Currently, there are more than 140,000 tests available for children to take. However, the cost of this prog

According to MWES PTA President Mark Leongomez, the school pays between $8,000 to $10,000 annu

Last year, MWES’s PTA decided to launch a read-a-thon, which would have a dual purpose of promotin

“I’m pretty sure that we are the first school in the area to tie our AR program to a read-a-thon,” said Leon

Parents, relatives, friends and neighbors can sponsor a child based on the number of books they read. E

“We also want to be able to give teachers the chance to win something based on their classes’ results,”

Another goal of the read-a-thon is to raise awareness of AR and how it benefits students. Raising the mo

“It would basically take all of the money we raise during the year,” Leongomez said.

He also indicated that the PTA contributes to other MWES projects, which could possibly suffer if funds

The hope is that an organization or company will step forward and co-sponsor the program, either partia

In recognition of MWES’s outstanding results on last year’s Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, te

“That was an incredible gesture by our teachers, and it shows just how important the AR program is to th

“All it takes is one good book to make a kid a reader for life,” he said.

For co-sponsorship information or to make a donation, call Matt Leongomez at 407-312-2682 or M