



NORSE WRESTLERS HEAD NORTH FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

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Miami Fire Department Firefighter/EMT Kade Witten and the FirePup read a story to the kids at Wilson Early Childhood Development to help celebrate Read Across America and encourage students to read.



Miami Public Schools Superintendent Nick Highsmith reads to students at Wilson Early Childhood Development as part of Read Across America week.

Guest readers, other events make books fun

You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book!

Moira K. McGhee
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“You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild to pick up a book and read, to a child,” said Dr. Seuss in a famous quote.

In celebration of Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss’ birthday, area schools had fun dress-up days and special events throughout the week of Feb. 28 through March 4.

A big part of the excitement at Wilson Early Childhood Development Center was guest readers who came to read to the kids throughout the week. Superintendent Nick Highsmith kicked the week off by reading “Hop on Pop” to some of Miami’s littlest Wardogs.

Probably the highlight of the week at Wilson was some special guest readers on Tuesday who surprised the students by bringing a fire truck and ambulance to the school for the kids to climb on and check out close-up. Later, Firefighter/Driver/EMT Kade Witten, with some help from the FirePup, read a book to the enthralled bunch of youngsters.

Not only did the students at Quapaw Elementary dress up all week, but they also held a super neat book/character parade on Wednesday afternoon.

“We want students to develop a lifelong love for reading,” said Quapaw Elementary Principal Sheri Compton. “We encourage students to choose texts that are aligned with their interests. We also ask for student input when selecting new texts for the library.”

Reading increases vocabulary, comprehension and critical thinking skills, and it builds confidence.

“If you practice, you will get better at it,” Quapaw 5th grade student Roxy Foran said.

Reading can take you to different cities, countries and worlds. It stimulates the imagination and reduces stress.

“You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book,” is another popular Dr. Seuss

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MIAMI STUDENT NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-STATER

School students selected as Academic All-Staters but that doesn’t make the victory any less sweet.

Of the 36 years the OFE has presented the Academic All-State Awards, Nguyen is the 26th MHS student to earn this statewide recognition since 1987. The 2022 award also marks the sixth year in a row a MHS student has earned the Academic All-State designation.

Nguyen was chosen as one of the top 100 high school seniors from the 397 nominations the OFE received statewide. Nominations were received from 75 schools in 67 school districts.

He said his time at MHS “has generally been great with all-around supportive teachers, counselors and especially friends. Moreso,

the school is taking steps to improve itself, so I think that’s also neat.”

Nguyen is the son of Nga and Loc Nguyen and a first-generation college student who plans to study computer science because he says it’s one of the most viable degrees right now. He has some target schools in mind.

“I’m still waiting for decisions to come out for a majority of my colleges,” said Nguyen. “If things don’t work out as I have planned, I’m perfectly content with going to OU for majoring in computer science.”

To be nominated for Academic All-State, students must either be selected as a semi-finalist for National Merit, National

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Eric Nguyen didn’t think he’d won, so he was surprised when he learned that he was indeed a 2022 Academic All-State award winner.

He explained that the Oklahoma Foundation of Excellence (OFE) sends out their award letters to the

students who were selected as recipients before they actually make their official announcement on Feb. 24.

“I didn’t receive my letter until pretty much the day of,” said Nguyen. “So, I was extremely surprised when I found out because I had thought I wasn’t awarded the whole time!”

Nguyen is among a long list of Miami High



Photo by Gary Crow

Hundreds of truckers passed through the area as part of a massive convoy to Washington, D.C. to protest vaccine and mask mandates.

Plans move forward for county trail project
Road condition complaint voiced

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An update on the proposed mile-and-a-half walking/hiking trail project in Ottawa County

was given during the commissioners’ regular meeting Monday.

Chairman and District 3 commissioner Russell Earls gave the report, saying he is excited and working diligently on the

project that is being called the Ottawa Trail — for now.

According to Earls, there have been inquiries into who will be in charge of trash (removal) and maintaining the trail,

among other things, if the project is approved.

“We have a sanitation deputy on staff already and, if we get the trail established, it’s going to

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Northeastern A&M's Brian Moore has been named the most valuable player and player of the year in NJCAA Region II.

Norse standout named Region II MVP

Northeastern A&M's Brian Moore has been named the most valuable player in the NJCAA Region II. Also, teammate Jonathan Mogbo was a first team all-region selection.

NEO's Kristina Ekofo was a second-team selection on the all-Region II women's team.

Moore, who also is the player of the year in Region II, leads the region in scoring at 21.7 points per game. That's 12th best among NJCAA Division I schools.

He's scored 629 points this season and has 1,053 points heading into the Region II Tournament.

An honorable mention All-American as a freshman, Moore is averaging 5.3 assists and 4.2 rebounds a game while shooting 52%.

Moore has been named Region II athlete of the week three times this season.

Teammate Jonathan Mogbo also has been named to the first team.

He's the rebounding leader in Region II at 10.5 per game, 15th nationally, and is averaging 14.3 points while blocking 1.4

shots.

Others named to the first team were Fede Federico, Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa; Nigel John, Eastern, and Jordan Tillmon, Connors.

Second-team honorees include Lavell Brodnex, Murray; Jahcoree Ealy, Connors; Jlynn COUNTER, Northern Oklahoma-Enid; Isaiah Griffin, Western; Israel Hart, Seminole, and Syrus Grigsby, Northern-Tonkawa.

Shanequa Henry of Eastern was the women's MVP.

Ekofo has averaged 14.6 points (seventh in Region II) and 7.3 rebounds (seventh) on the season.

Selected to the women's first team were Briana Knabe, Murray; Amaya Gordon, Seminole; Tegan Jones, Northern-Enid, and Jordan Holman, Northern-Tonkawa.

Joining Ekofo on the second team were Crystal Ortiz, Eastern; Alana Wilson, Murray; Shelby Rayner, Northern-Tonkawa, and Shakira Patterson, Redlands.

Books

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quote.

To emphasize the importance of books and encourage reading, make books easily accessible everywhere family members spend time. Put books in every room of your home and all your vehicles. You can also tuck books into backpacks and tote bags, so they're even more readily available.

Parents often encourage children to read without even realizing it. Children frequently imitate adults, so when they see their parents reading, it often makes them want to read, too. A potentially even bigger impact is when younger siblings see big brother/sister

reading.

It's also very important to read to kids, especially when they're young and can't yet read themselves. However, it remains an important activity even when kids get older and know how to read. Studies show that reading aloud strengthens vocabulary and language skills. Parents can even have children read to them, which can be a fun reversal.

As Dr. Seuss is oft-quoted, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

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