
News Release

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MPB Brings the Cat in the Hat to Rankin County Schools

MPB Celebrates Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America Day

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with Read Across America by bringing the famous rhymes to Brandon Methodist Kindergarten, Northwest Rankin Elementary School, and Rouse Elementary School in Rankin County.

The National Education Association (NEA) celebrated this year's Read Across America Day on March 2, 2011, by honoring Dr. Seuss's birthday. Across America, thousands of children, libraries, and schools came together to encourage children to read more books.

What better way for MPB to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday than by bringing the Cat in the Hat himself into schools to read to our children in Central Mississippi! Throughout the month of March, MPB is bringing its Cat in the Hat character to read the famous Dr. Seuss books to students in the Jackson metro area.

"MPB had a great time celebrating NEA's Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday with students across the state," says Nikki McCelleis, MPB's Deputy Executive Director for Education.

The Cat in the Hat Appeared in Rankin County schools on these dates:

March 1 – Ms. Rives's class at Rouse Elementary School in Brandon

March 3 – Ms. Mercer's class at Northwest Rankin Elementary School in Flowood

March 11 – Ms. Sumrall's class at Northshore Elementary in Brandon

Dr. Seuss's books are a valuable learning tool for children. Dr. Seuss encourages children to read and to share stories with others. With rhymes and stories, Dr. Seuss reaches a wide audience and never seems to disappoint.

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child," Dr. Seuss once said.

C-U-T-L-I-N-E

Photo One – Mississippi Public Broadcasting celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday with Read Across America Day. *The Cat in the Hat* visited Ms. Mercer's second grade class at Northwest Rankin Elementary School on March 3.

Photo Two - Mississippi Public Broadcasting celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday with Read Across America Day. *The Cat in the Hat* visited Ms. Sumrall's class at Northshore Elementary in Brandon on March 11.

NEA's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. NEA's Read Across America also provides NEA members, parents, caregivers, and children the resources and activities they need to keep reading on the calendar 365 days a year. In May 1997, a small reading task force at NEA came up with a big idea. "Let's create a day to celebrate reading," the group decided. "We hold pep rallies to get kids excited about football. We assemble to remember that Character Counts. Why don't we do something to get kids excited about reading? We'll call it 'NEA's Read Across America' and we'll celebrate it on Dr. Seuss's birthday." And so was born on March 2, 1998, the largest celebration of reading this country has ever seen.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) provides relevant instructional and public affairs programming to Mississippians through its statewide television and radio network. MPB enhances the work of educators, students, parents and learners of all ages by providing informative programming and educational resources. MPB's locally-produced programming focuses on the people, resources and attractions that reflect Mississippi's unique culture and diverse heritage. Children's television programs constitute a major portion of the daytime and weekend morning schedules. MPB provides a valuable resource to Mississippians in disseminating information as part of the state's emergency preparedness and response system. Since 1970, MPB has won over 400 national, regional and statewide awards, including Emmy®, Edward R. Murrow and Parents' Choice® Awards.

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