

# Lions Literacy Project

submitted by Jim Kauppila



In December, 2013, a motion was made and seconded:

1. Lions would promote a reading challenge among the three Fruitport elementary schools during reading month (March). The winning school would be determined by the most books read per student ratio. The winning school would have a celebration program with Fruitport Lions



providing (and perhaps even serving) ice cream. The celebration would include a dignitary in a Lions vest congratulating the students on their reading success.

2. During reading month, Lions members would read to every classroom in the three elementary buildings. They would take with them three books purchased by the club, and ask students which book they would like to have read to them by the Lions member. The Lions member would then leave all three books in the classroom as a donation.

The motion carried...Lions Bob Szymoniak and Jim Kauppila were inspired by then Lion International President, Wayne Madden, to promote literacy where they could. Fruitport Community Schools was picked.

Six years later, the project continues. Lions Pat and Russ Stressman, Heidi Tice, Jim Kauppila supported by Lioness Mariann Cooper and Rose Dillion, and special guest Sally Huyser, did the reading.. Three schools, three books for each room, almost fifty rooms in total!

In the six years of the program, the Lions



have read to over three hundred classrooms, and delivered over nine hundred books. They have backed off the challenge from the early years, but their commitment to promote reading has not changed.

The Lions are most appreciative of the school



principals and teaching staff for allowing them to continue this program. With another year in the books they look forward to March 2020...

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# CHOOSE LOVE

with MUSKEGON COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE at the

## — FRUITPORT — OLD FASHIONED DAYS PARADE

www.muskegon-rtl.org

WHEN: **Monday, May 27, 2019** MEMORIAL DAY

WHERE: **Fruitport Middle School**  
3113 E PONTALUNA RD, FRUITPORT, MI 49415

MEET AT **1pm**  
PARADE AT **2pm**

Please come in a white T-shirt as we want to look unified as a group.  
**Walk or ride the float!** Any questions please call (231) 733-6300!