

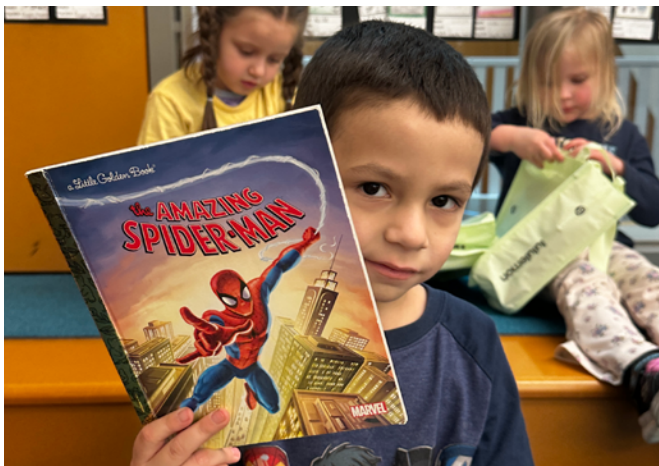
Happy Valley Elementary's  
Free Book Fair



# 2026 Impact Report



We believe all kids deserve **access to books** of their own to spark wonder and joy.



Happy Valley Elementary PTA hosted a Free Book Fair on February 27, 2026, for the school's 454 students. Over 35% of the school's families qualify for free or reduced lunch and we have students who are unhoused, in the foster care system, and living with food insecurity. This event was free to students and held during school hours, helping to increase access to books in the home.



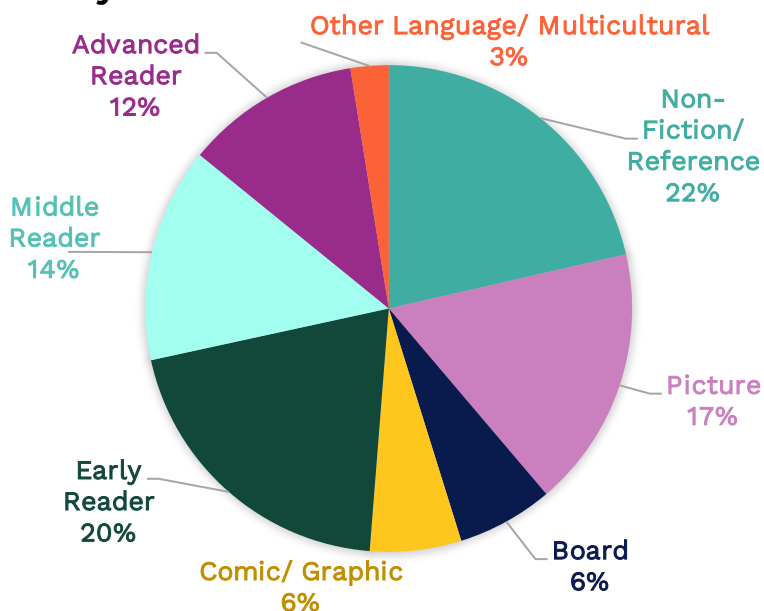
That evening, we held a family reading night, where students and families could select books from the Free Book Fair, hear popular books read by guest speakers from our community, and participate in creating writing and illustrating activities. Our goal was to create a joyful, inclusive experience for students and their families.

We'd like to thank all of our donors for their **generous support.**



## What We Collected

We collected donations of new and gently used children's books from community members and local organizations. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our Bellingham community. **This year, we collected 5,500 books, over 1,200 more than we collected the previous year.**



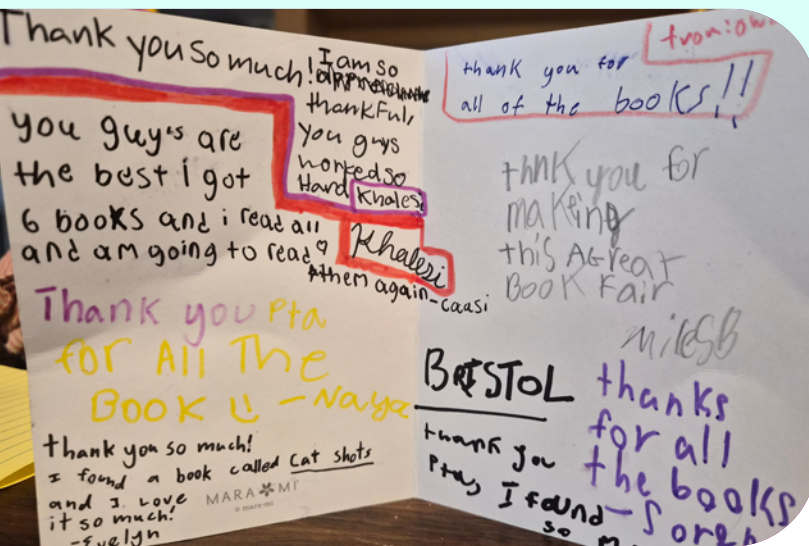
## Our Community Rocks!

Thanks to the generosity of our community donors and sponsors, the Free Book Fair offered books that students were excited about. The quality and quantity of books from our community amazed our school, and we are incredibly grateful.

## Thank you to our donors & sponsors!

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Flip Kids & Maternity                     | Trader Joe's                 |
| Friends of the Bellingham Public Library  | U-Haul                       |
| Hillcrest Church                          | Village Books                |
| Sarah Aguirre   John L. Scott Real Estate | Whatcom Family YMCA          |
| Lululemon                                 | WWU Child Development Center |
| Mount Bakery Cafe                         | The Happy Valley Community   |

# Impact at a Glance



“This was one of the **best days** in my teaching career!”

- Principal Gouveia

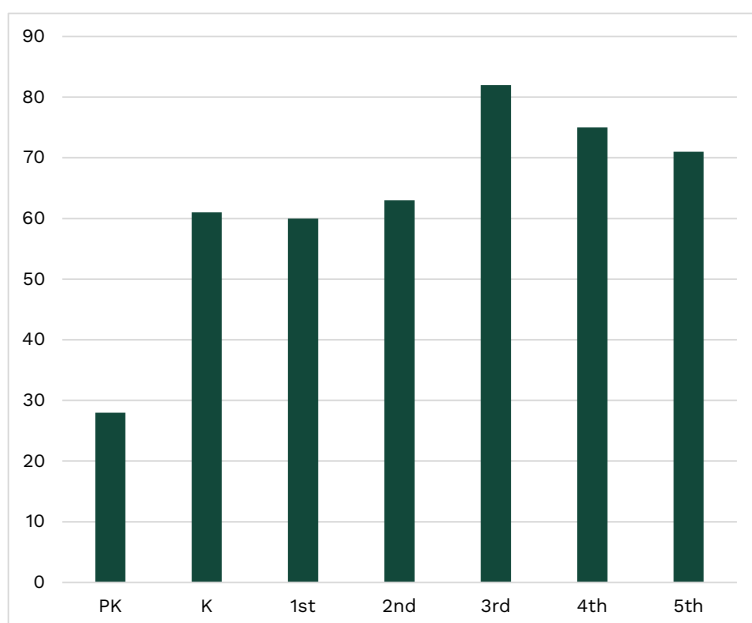


“A fourth grader was **so excited** to show me their dictionary.”  
- Margaret, volunteer

“My first graders asked to skip their free choice time to **go pick more books.**”  
- Mrs. Wilson

“I already started a coin collection, and **now I have a book about coin collecting!**”  
- Caylum, 5th grade

Who the books served by grade at the in-school event



# 3,800

Books went home with students  
69% of donated books

The remaining books have been donated to two other elementary schools in our district to help support their students.

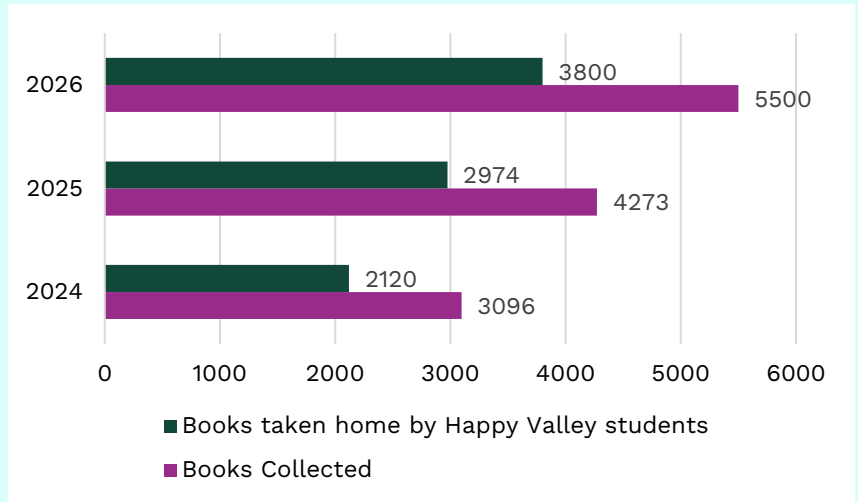
# Over the **Years**

At the May 2025 Washington State PTA Convention, Happy Valley PTA received a **Bronze Level Diversity, Inclusion, & Outreach Award of Excellence** for the Free Book Fair program!

## Community Investment

If the books collected averaged \$8-\$12 each, that amounts to roughly **\$44,000-66,000 in book access delivered free to kids.**

### Book Increase Each Year



### Community Investment Growth Over Time



## Why this matters

Research consistently shows that children with more books at home have better literacy outcomes. Yet children from low-income households have significantly fewer books available to them, at home and in their communities, than their more affluent peers.

*Thank you again for your participation in the Happy Valley Elementary PTA's Free Book Fair 2026. Without your support, the success of this event would not have been possible.*

**Questions?** Contact [bookfair@happyvalleypta.com](mailto:bookfair@happyvalleypta.com)