

What's New in the Northwest Area

Serving Lincoln, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, and Yamhill counties

Thank You!

Our incredible community of 147 volunteers spent 3,551 hours this year reading with kids and helping them choose new books to keep. We're so grateful for the volunteers, donors, educators and partners who made it possible for us to return to in-person reading, give away thousands of books, and inspire a love of reading in local kids. Thank you for being an important part of SMART Reading!

Community Comes Together at Lyle Elementary

Getting our program up and running at Lyle Elementary in Dallas this year was a true testament to the power of community! When Carol Christ, our long-time Site Coordinator at Oakdale Heights in Dallas, heard about the needs there she made a list of all the people she knew who might be able to help and we reached out to ask them to



share with their networks. Through the power of word-of-mouth, we quickly gained 10 volunteer Readers in just over a week, which allowed us to read with 48 kids at Lyle this year - what an impact!

Pictured: Giveaway table full of books at Lyle Elementary!

2022-23 Local Impact



**16
Sites**



**1,582
Students Served**



**9,207
Books Given**

Meet Your Local Team

What's your favorite thing about SMART? Here's what the Northwest Area team has to say:



Melissa MacCumber, Senior Program Manager

Before coming to SMART I had worked as both a nurse and as an elementary school teacher. I especially loved teaching 3rd graders to love reading! I wanted to focus on my passion for literacy and SMART was the perfect

place to do so. My favorite part of my job is connecting with other people who are passionate about helping kids find joy in reading.



Deborah Marion, Area Director

With a background in education and the service industry, I came to SMART as a volunteer Reader, Site Coordinator, and temporary Program Assistant before joining the staff full-time in 2017.

My favorite part of this role is being lucky enough to center children's literacy in my daily life and meeting the people who make SMART thrive in their communities.

What We're Reading

Fry Bread by Kevin Noble Maillard
Accident! by Andrea Tsurumi



Pictured: Kids and volunteers enjoying a reading session at Grant Community School in Salem! It was so fun to be back to in-person reading this year.