

Celebrating Dr. Seuss with reading night

The Cat in the Hat, Thing One and Thing Two and other characters from Dr. Seuss children's books came alive at Freeman Elementary School in Aurora Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The occasion was Freeman's fourth annual family reading night, a Dr. Seuss reading party. Freeman educators, aided by 30 Aurora University students and members of West Aurora High School's National Honors Society, sponsored crafts, games and reading activities.

The event celebrated Read Across America Day and the birthday of iconic children's author Theodore Seuss Geisel, March 2, 1904.

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

"Celebrities" read stories to groups at Radical Read Alouds in the school's learning media center and a classroom. Readers included AU students Wesley Smith of Yorkville, who portrayed Cat in the Hat; and Brooke Meszaros and Katy Falcon-Lara.

For the first time, celebrity readers included Aurora police and firemen who read books about their work.

They were Aurora police officers Kyle Hoffman and Chris Beiriger and Aurora firemen Pvt. Thorn Ackmann, Lt. Christopher Oros and Pvt. John Eul.

AU volunteers, dressed in pajamas or Seuss-character costumes, included student teachers in the Educators Rising club and Judy Maxwell of Sugar Grove and Pam Ferdinand, Maple Park, Educators Rising coordinators.

Games were Cat in the Hat buckets, Seuss golf match, Horton hop scotch, Hop and Pop twister, Green Eggs and Ham rhyming jam and 10 apples on top.

Other highlights were a photo booth, coloring sheets, a used book sale and refreshments.

PHOTO: Yorkville resident and Aurora University freshman Wesley Smith, right, posed for photos while portraying Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat at Freeman Elementary School in Aurora Feb. 28. Smith was among 30 AU education majors who volunteered at Freeman's fourth annual Family Reading Night. (Al Benson photo)

