

Elementary Reading Project

On February 3rd, 2026, the Clear Springs National English Honor Society Chapter, traveled to Hall and Ross Elementary, to celebrate National Read Aloud Day. During this event, students interacted with multiple classrooms, where they read books donated by other NEHS members and completed worksheets. This celebration was noted as the most significant service event within the 2025-2026 CSHS NEHS year and is a community connection in which the members hope to continue within the following seasons.

In relation to the visits, NEHS officers and teachers determined specific purposes for the event, one of which was to promote the celebration of reading at an early age, and another was to allow for interactions between younger and older students to foster connection. Beginning with the first of the goals, in practice, NEHS began a few weeks prior by setting up a point opportunity for students to donate the book, “The Most Magnificent Thing” by Ashely Spires, to allow members to participate in the service event even without physical appearance on the day. Along with this, on the day, around 12 members traveled to the two elementary schools, and each of the groups had a class of around 20 students to read to. These groups were then split further into 6 kids which a few NEHS students were paired with to read the book presented (each student was given prior training on the specifics of reading to younger students). In relation to the second purpose, after the book reading, students were then taken to another space, where members helped them to fill out a worksheet to make their own “magnificent thing.” All the events on February 3rd, were directly invested in the enjoyment of reading and the importance of connection, and according to Katelyn Huggins, a NEHS officer, “the young students loved it and loved to let their creativity loose!”

Following the event, NEHS staff members reached out to individuals involved in the experience to get feedback. According to Mrs. Kimberly Hall, a Ross Elementary Librarian who helped run National Read Aloud Day, the “kindergarten students absolutely LOVED being the center of attention with these ‘grown up friends’” and “these bright young adults were thoughtful, kind, and a great example for our littles at Ross Elementary.” According to Paloma Garcia-Alarcon, a senior NEHS member, students participating in the event seemed like “they were able to work on their listening skills as well as increased concentration”, specifically, she “noticed some kids were extremely curious and observant, and some had very out of the box ideas by making connections in their lives”.

Overall, this service event allowed NEHS students and teachers alike to make a genuine impact on others and promoted the growing chapter locally. NEHS has made it very clear their enjoyment of the National Read Aloud Day and their willingness to continue this tradition into the following year!