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Surprise Elementary wins McDonald's library grant

DYSART SCHOOLS — McDonald's Owner/Operators of Arizona and the Arizona Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has announced that Surprise Elementary is a Readers Are Leaders® Award winner, receiving a \$1,000 grant for its school library.

Surprise PTA is one of 10 Arizona PTAs receiving \$1,000 grants for its literacy programs from McDonald's Readers Are Leaders Award program. The grant program provides funding for the books and reading materials for school libraries to enhance book collections and offer titles that kids will want to drop everything and read.

Applications were judged on creativity, ability to make good use of books, and solid strategy for long-term reading promotion activities.

Surprise PTA President Beth Simek said the school plans to use the grant money to purchase popular award-winning books to inspire students to read even more.

McDonald's and Arizona PTA began the grant program in 2007 and have since awarded \$45,000 to Arizona PTA school libraries.

"Arizona PTA believes that one of the most important things families and schools can do is to encourage children to love to reading. Projects like McDonald's "Readers Are Leaders" provide the tools to develop this love for reading and thereby improve learning," Betty Garcia-Pendley, president of Arizona Parent Teacher Association.

"We are proud to support literacy in our local schools," said Don Mellon, Sr., Surprise McDonald's owner/operator. "Our restaurants are committed to the communities we serve, and investing in education is a top priority."