



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hemmerling Elementary Celebrates New Book Vending Machine with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

BANNING, CA — On Friday, October 18, 2024, Hemmerling Elementary hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the debut of its new book vending machine, marking an innovative step in promoting literacy across the school. The event brought together students, teachers and community members, all excited to witness the launch of this creative resource.

The book vending machine offers students a unique opportunity to engage with reading. Students earn tokens through positive behavior, academic achievements and participation in reading programs, which they can redeem for books from the vending machine. By making books more accessible and rewarding, Hemmerling Elementary aims to instill a love for reading and create a positive association with literacy.

“This new vending machine is more than just a tool, it’s an invitation for our students to explore new worlds through reading,” said Superintendent Davis. “We’re excited to see how this initiative will inspire and empower students at Hemmerling Elementary.”

The project was made possible through the Banning Teachers Association (BTA), as the school won the vending machine through a drawing. The achievement reflects the dedication of Hemmerling Elementary’s staff, who have long pursued this goal to support their students.

“We believe that every child deserves access to books and the opportunity to fall in love with reading. This new initiative not only provides students with the resources they need but also promotes a culture of learning and growth that extends beyond the classroom,” said Principal Dr. Ileana Gutierrez.

The ceremony also highlighted how Hemmerling Elementary’s focus on literacy aligns with regional and state efforts. The Riverside County Office of Education’s Literacy by 5th Grade Initiative promotes literacy as the foundation for lifelong learning, academic achievement and



civic engagement, ensuring students are prepared for the challenges of college and the workforce.

Additionally, the event supports the California Department of Education's "Reading by Third Grade and Beyond" initiative, led by State Superintendent Tony Thurmond. This initiative emphasizes literacy and biliteracy through evidence-based practices and resources designed to ensure students across California are proficient readers by third grade and beyond.

The event concluded with attendees exploring the book vending machine and learning how it will be integrated into student programs throughout the school year.

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The mission of Banning Unified School District is to collaborate as a diverse community in developing responsible, respectful, and prepared students to achieve their full potential.

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(Photos has been attached)

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