

Rotary Dictionary Project

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The object of the **Rotary Dictionary Project** is to provide third grade students a personal dictionary of their very own that will serve them at least through elementary and middle school.

Many educators and researchers see this as a key to better reading, speech, and writing. These skills will improve student performance in other subjects as well.

Receiving the dictionaries from Rotary members is beneficial to students as well. The young people meet successful adults in their community who care enough about them to purchase these dictionaries and come to their school to present them personally.

The brief explanation of Rotary service in the community and around the world gives students a lasting positive impression of Rotary and the ideal of service.

Why?



What research says about access to books

- “Children with greater access to books and other print materials express more enjoyment of books, reading, and academics.”
—*Children’s Access to Print Material and Education-Related Outcomes*
- “Reading volume—the amount of reading that students do in and out of school—has significant impact upon word recognition, spelling, vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and general knowledge.”
—*Scholastic Classroom Books Compendium of Research*
- “Access to books in the home is the key to academic success. And the children of lesser-educated parents benefit the most—having as few as 20 books in the home has a significant impact on propelling a child to a higher level of education. And the more books you add, the greater the benefit.”
—*Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*

Proven Outcomes

Access to books improves children’s reading performance.



children's reading performance.

.....

Access to books proves instrumental
in helping children learn the
basics of reading.

.....

Access to books causes children to
read more and for longer lengths of time.

.....

Access to books produces
improved attitudes toward reading
and learning among children.

—*Children's Access to Print Material and Education-Related Outcomes*

My BOOKS

I read, therefore I AM.

 SCHOLASTIC

608980

The Dictionary: Although Amazon.com currently sells the **Scholastic Children's Dictionary** (2010 ed.) for \$13.59 with free shipping for orders over \$25.00, the local sales representative of Scholastic Publishing is generally able to beat that price.

Contact:

Brad Fish

Account Executive

Scholastic Classroom and Library Group

Guided Reading - Leveled Bookrooms

Classroom Libraries & Collections

Preschool Literacy & After School Programs

PA Correlations & Common Core Standards Materials

School to Home - Literacy Connections

Teacher Resources & Professional Development Training

319 Parkside Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15228

412 531-2402 Phone

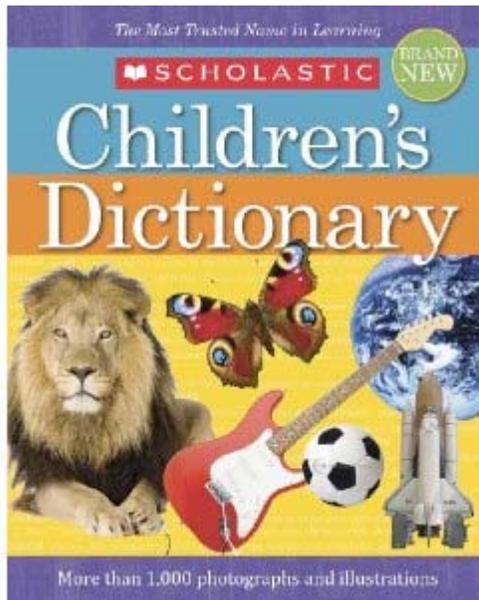
412-291-1545 Fax

412-860-2981 Mobile

1-800- 825-4579, *4488 Voice Mail

bfish@scholastic.com

More about the **Scholastic Children's Dictionary**:



Product Details

- **Reading Level:** Ages 8 and up
- **Hardcover:** 800 pages
- **Publisher:** Scholastic Reference; New edition (July 1, 2010)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0545218586
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0545218580
- **Product Dimensions:** 10.3 x 8.4 x 1.4 inches
- **Shipping Weight:** 4 pounds

Editorial Reviews

From *School Library Journal*

Grades 3-6 – The most noticeable changes in the new edition of this perennial favorite are stylistic; the design is more restrained and less cutesy than that of the 2007 edition, with smaller print. The volume appears to be targeted at children who are more visually savvy than previous generations. Frames on each page; tabs running along the edges of the pages showing which letter is being featured; and eye-popping, full-color photos mimic the cleanest of webpage designs. There are content updates, too: the endpapers now feature full-color world maps, and 1000 new photos and illustrations supplement the definitions. Boxes feature more word histories and sample sentences than in previous editions, and a directory of U.S. presidents, complete with pictures and facts, joins the thesaurus, grammar, punctuation, idiom, acronym, and flag information in the supplementary material.

Kathleen Kelly MacMillan, Carroll County Public Library, MD

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From [Booklist](#)

This updated dictionary contains more than 30,000 entries and more than 1,000 detailed photographs and drawings, an average amount compared with other titles aimed at this audience. The prefatory material includes an overview and a pronunciation guide. Each word entry includes pronunciation (using simple respelling rather than the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet), parts of speech, syllable breaks, and one or more numbered definitions. Some entries have sample sentences written in simple language for the intended audience. A few, such as the one for ain't, have the usage note "slang." Cross-references to related entries or to pictures are included where appropriate. The pronunciation table is not repeated on every spread in the dictionary, but this is not necessary since no symbols are used. There are no geographic or biographical entries. Many variations of definitions of entry words are provided (e.g., run has 19 definitions). Current words, such as MP3, social networking, and Twitter, are defined. Throughout the dictionary, word-history, prefix, suffix, synonym, and language-note boxes appear with tinted screens. Sidebars contain extra information and illustrations for terms such as sharks and space shuttle. The reference section provides a thesaurus; guides to grammar, punctuation, idioms, and abbreviations; maps; flags; facts about the 50 states and Canada; a list of U.S. presidents; and more. This section lacks some reference charts, such as weights and measures and time zones, that are usually found in dictionaries for comparable ages. The physical format of the pages is appealing to the elementary user, and the type size is readable. The Scholastic Children's Dictionary is a good choice for elementary-school and public libraries. Grades 3-7.

Mary Ellen Quinn

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Link to an example of a letter for parents that can be inserted in the dictionaries:
<http://www.usadictionaryproject.org/letter-to-parents.html>

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Example of information about Rotary that can be inserted in the dictionaries:

My first dic • tio • nary!

Pronunciation: \ dik-she- ner-é, - ne-ré\

Function: *noun*

plural: dic • tio • nar • ies

1 : a reference book listing alphabetically terms or names important to a particular subject or activity along with discussion of their meanings and applications

Dictionaries donated by:

- The Rotary Club of Braddock
- The Rotary Club of Churchill-Wilkins
- The Rotary Club of Forest Hills
- The Rotary Club of Swissvale
- The Rotary Club of Turtle Creek

Rotary is a worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Members of Rotary clubs, known as Rotarians, provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Clubs are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. As signified by the motto Service Above Self, Rotary's main objective is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world.



Rotary's Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the Truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

For more information, please visit www.rotary.org

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Example of a book plate that can be placed on the inside front cover of the dictionary:

My first dic • tio • nary!

Pronunciation: \ dik-she- ner-é, - ne-ré\

Function: *noun*

plural: dic • tio • nar • ies

1 : a reference book listing alphabetically terms or names important to a particular subject or activity along with discussion of their meanings and applications

Presented to:



The Woodland Hills Dictionary Project is sponsored by:

- The Rotary Club of Braddock, The Rotary Club of Churchill-Wilkins,
- The Rotary Club of Forest Hills, The Rotary Club of Swissvale
- and The Rotary Club of Turtle Creek

www.rotary.org

Example of a District Simplified Grant on behalf of a consortium of Rotary clubs:

DISTRICT SIMPLIFIED GRANT FORM

Individual Project Summary

District Simplified Grant # _____

Note: Rotarians completing an individual projects summary should return this form to their District Leadership or to the District Simplified Grant Committee established on the district level.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Project Title: Rotary 3 rd Grade Dictionary Project | 2. Rotary Club(s): |
| 3. Report Type: Initial Report | Braddock, Churchill, Forest Hills,
Swissvale, and Turtle Creek.
All are in Woodland Hills School District. |

Community Impact

4. Provide detailed information regarding the project and the beneficiaries. How many non-Rotarians will benefit from this Project?

The five Rotary Clubs in the Woodland Hills School District are partnering to provide hardback dictionaries that have been vetted by public librarians and approved by the school administration to the third grade students in the Woodland Hills School District. The Woodland Hills School District is a public school district located in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, serving twelve municipalities in the Pittsburgh area; Braddock, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, **East Pittsburgh**, Edgewood, Forest Hills, North Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, Turtle Creek and Wilkins Township. Several of these areas are economically distressed communities.

Approximately 280 students and their families will benefit by having this standard, age appropriate reference tool. Most of the Clubs plan to purchase individual dictionaries at the same time to present to children in local charter, private or parochial schools in their area as well.

Gladys Maharam, previously Deputy Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, currently Literacy Coordinator for District 7300 and Literacy Chair for the Forest Hills Club will act as project manager. She contacted the Woodland Hills School District. Their assistant superintendent immediately agreed to participate in the project at a mutually agreeable time and provide photography releases for students. A review of the literature about children's dictionaries was conducted to see if any newer dictionary was available that met the criteria for selection. The most recent edition of the *Scholastic Children's Dictionary*, used by the Oakland Club for a previous project was selected. All clubs in the Woodland Hills School District had an opportunity to view the dictionary and hear about the potential project and have subsequently approved this project. Scholastic Publishing was contacted and agreed to provide a generous discount with no shipping charges.

5. How will the Project provide community members with specific skills or knowledge that will allow them to help themselves?

The third grade students will receive a personal dictionary of their very own that will serve them at least through elementary and middle school. There will be a color book plate inside the front cover where they can write their names. These will be used by siblings as well. Teachers see having reference materials at home and knowing how to use them as a key to improved reading, speech, and writing-skills. The expectation is that this will improve student performance in other subjects as well. By receiving the dictionaries from Rotary members who are active in the community and are taking time away from work or other activities to provide them and come to their classroom, students will understand that strangers care about them and their school success. There will be time for the students to interact with Rotarians as the public librarians present a short session on dictionary

skills during the presentation. Additionally the children will learn a little about Rotary and its activities at the beginning of the session. We will design a handout to place in each dictionary about Rotary so that parents or caregivers will understand why the dictionaries were presented and learn about Rotary projects.

6. If a cooperating organization will be involved, what will be its role?

Several organizations have been involved. The model for this project is based on a project of the Oakland Club from 2007 where they presented dictionaries to third graders in three inner city schools in a nearby neighborhood. The Coordinator of Children’s Materials and then Deputy Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh selected the dictionary according to stringent criteria with the cost ranking low in the criteria list. It was more important to have good, understandable definitions, color pictures, sturdy bindings, etc. Scholastic Publishing’s Library Division provided a generous discount and free shipping.

The library directors and children’s librarians from the C.C. Mellor, Swissvale and Braddock Public Libraries will be asked to participate in the initial planning meeting as well as a representative or two from the Woodland Hills School District.

Rotarian Involvement

7. How many Rotarians participate in the Project?

We are confident that at least five Rotarians from each of the five clubs will participate in the Dictionary Project. Additionally other members may participate in the other part of this project that involves the presentation of the same dictionaries to charter, parochial and private schools in the area.

8. How will they participate?

They will participate by attending the planning meeting, helping to place the book plates in each dictionary, taking the boxes of dictionaries to each school, and assisting with the distribution at the local elementary schools. One Rotarian will also introduce the project in each classroom and describe Rotary.

9. Provide an overview of project spending, items to be purchased/project expenses.

Scholastic Children’s Dictionary (280 @ \$11.39)	\$3190.00
Shipping and Handling	\$0.00
Printed labels (color) to be inserted into each dictionary	\$28.00
Printed Rotary information	\$197.00
1 pen per student	\$60.00
TOTAL	\$3475.00

10. By signing this report, I confirm that District Simplified Grant funds of \$2500 will be spent in accordance with Trustee approved guidelines and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all expenses will be retained for at least three years in case of audit.

11.

Certifying Signature Date

12. Please print name, Rotary title and Club:

Return form to:

Dennis Crawford, PDG, c/o All-Pak, Inc., 1195 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
 O: 412-257-3000, H: 724-772-3439, F: 412-257-7545

Example of project manager's information for board meeting prior to project:

Woodland Hills Area Rotary Dictionary Project

Before meeting to be held by January 14th :

- Determine which club will be fiscal agent
- Determine if Spanish language dictionaries should be ordered and keep process separate from local project
- Determine where books will be received
- Arrange meeting space (probably at C.C. Mellor Library)
- Invite one Children's Librarian from each library in area
- Contact each Club President to ensure that at least 2 Rotarians from each club attend meeting and participate in project
- Invite a Woodland Hills School District representative and review census
- Invite Scholastic Books Sales Representative
- Request that each club purchasing extra dictionaries for schools other than Woodland Hills, bring census and school information
- Have a book plate (draft) designed
- Draft a letter to be included in each dictionary geared toward parents and children

At meeting :

- Total census prior to placing order for books
- Target a two week period for distribution of dictionaries
- Discuss process for distribution at each school/classroom, determining role for school-designated person, Children's Librarian, and 2 Rotarians for each class
- Appoint 1 point person for each school
- Appoint 1 PR point person to develop plan and gather photos
- Review budget
- Approve book plate and letter
- Set up session to pack books, affix plates, and stuff letters into dictionaries

Following meeting :

- Order dictionaries
- Purchase pens
- Print book plates and letters
- Finalize dates with schools
- Get extra boxes
- Packing session followed by point person taking boxes of books and pens
- Arrive at schools 20-30 minutes earlier than sessions with one Rotarian designated as photographer
- Designated Rotarian "report back" on sessions
- Prepare Rotary District 7300 Grant report

Example of an agenda for the initial meeting of the Rotary consortium:

Woodland Hills Dictionary Project Agenda for January 26, 2010

Introductions

Review of scope of project

Dictionary selection

Schools and census

Point person for each school

- Contact
- Arrive at least 20 minutes early
- Have dictionaries and pens ready to hand out
- Rotary welcome followed by dictionary skills lesson by public librarian or library school student
- Photographs

Preliminary work

- Where dictionaries should be shipped
- Purchase of pens
- Amount of personalization
- Text of labels
- Text of enclosed sheet
- Extra boxes

Next meeting

- Unpack boxes
- Apply labels
- Stuff sheets
- Pack and label boxes
- Take pens
- Store boxes
- Photographer for meeting

Budget

- Grant \$800
- Portion from each Club for WHSD
- Each Club paying expenses for dictionaries/pens/labels, etc. for charter, parochial and private schools in their catchment area.
- District Foundation. Application sent. Waiting for confirmation.
- Checks to Forest Hills Rotary Club (so one check can go to the District Foundation by February)

Dates

By Thursday, January 28 — Contact information distributed.

Thursday, January 28 by 12 Noon — Final confirmation of number of dictionaries for each private, parochial, and charter school.

Friday, January 29 — Place order with Scholastic Books.

By February 22 — Dictionaries arrive.

Week of February 22 and/or March 1 — Label books, insert enclosure, pack, and distribute to Rotarians for temporary storage.

Between March 8 and 26 — Distribute dictionaries.

By week of March 29 — Send copies of pictures and any reports to Gladys.

Contact information:

Gladys Maharam, 61 Holland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

H: (412) 243-8723, C: (412) 378-5131, E: gsmaharam@comcast.net

Example of project instructions for a Rotary consortium:

Woodland Hills Dictionary Project

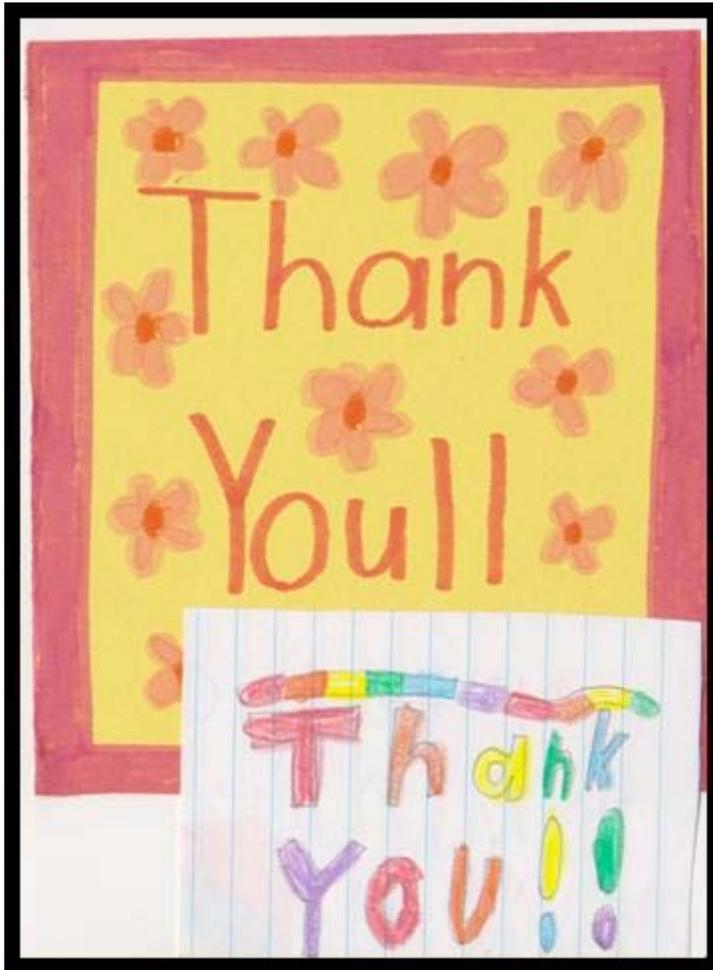
- Project to be completed by the end of March.
- Contact the Woodland Hills contact for your school(s)
 - Arrange date and time.
 - Find out if you will be visiting separate classes or if the children will be in one group.
 - Contact Gladys Maharam (gsmaharam@comcast.net) with the above info once it's determined. Copy children's librarian from local library if you are partnering with local library and designated Rotary PR chair.
 - The librarian will let you know if she is available. If she isn't, review the dictionary skills handout.
 - PR chair will let you know if any media person will be present for interviews or photographs.
- Contact other schools
 - Arrange date and time.
 - If applicable, find out if you will be visiting separate classes or if the children will be in one group.
 - Contact Gladys Maharam with the above info once it's determined. Copy children's librarian and PR chair.
 - Librarian will let you know if she is available. If she isn't, review the dictionary skills handout.
 - PR chair will let you know if any media person will be present for interviews or photographs.
- Final preparation
 - Have dictionaries and pens organized for each class.
 - Remember to wear your Rotary pins and take a camera (preferably digital)
 - School representative will introduce Rotary project.
 - Greet children, introduce yourself, and tell them a little bit about Rotary. (Do remember that they are 3rd graders.)
 - Distribute dictionaries and pens. Ask them to open cover and write their first and last name on the line on the book plate. Instruct them to put pens down and tell them that they will be allowed to keep them.
 - Explain that the dictionaries are theirs for home use, that they should show them to their parents, and give the handout to their parents.
 - Either introduce children's librarian or one of the Rotarians should be prepared to handle the dictionary skills lesson.
 - After lesson, encourage students to look through dictionary.
 - Rotarians should visit with the children individually for a few minutes.
 - Thank teacher and school official.
 - Take extra dictionaries and pens. If teacher tells you that a child is absent, then leave a dictionary and pen behind. If a teacher requests a dictionary for use in classroom, decline tactfully saying that the project is just for the students.

- After the Distribution by April 5, 2010, each Club should:
 - Send pictures to Gladys Maharam, making sure that the school is identified.
 - Send a brief report of your experience to her as well indicating if anything went wrong, any recommendations for next year, and the high points.
 - Extra dictionaries and pens belong to your Club. You may either save them for next year or use them for Club purposes. Please don't sell them unless your Club is prepared to collect local and state sales tax.
 - Talk to your board about making this an annual event.

Teaching dictionary skills to third graders: This is a wonderful opportunity for Rotary Clubs to work with local librarians to establish a brief lesson. An example of a good word to use is "service."

Examples of pictures and thank you notes that can be used for subsequent PR:





Evaluation:

The following was published in the District Governor's newsletter October 2009 and might be helpful in determining next steps:

Evaluation of Literacy Projects

Many clubs in Rotary District 7300 participate in literacy projects simply as the right thing to do, and very often it's easy to keep sustaining the project year-after-year. Actually, however, each club should consider this:

“To learn and grow from the experience, your club needs to know what worked and what didn't and whether the project achieved its objectives. The evaluation process doesn't need to be expensive or time consuming. By setting measurable goals and objectives during the planning phase, your club has already done much of the work.”

“Completing an evaluation is simply a matter of collecting data related to each of the project's objectives and determining whether the goals were met.”

“Typical evaluations include surveys, case studies, and data analysis. Read a complete guide to evaluating projects in [Communities in Action: a Guide to Effective Projects](#) (PDF), and find easy-to-use evaluation resources in [Community Assessment Tools](#) (PDF).”

From <http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/ProjectResources/EvaluatingAProject/Pages/ridefault.aspx> (accessed September 14, 2009)

As you complete the evaluative process, please share it with me. We will then have some idea of what really works and what doesn't.

Gladys Maharam
Rotary District 7300 Literacy Chair