



News release
April 18, 2023

Book vending machine gives students sense of school community



EVERETT, WA—Everett Public Schools values its schools' Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and all they do to support student learning and bringing together school communities.

In a first of its kind in the district, Jefferson Elementary's PTA approved the purchase of an *Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine™* and "Inchy" arrived in September and was wrapped in custom designed art and installed for use in early November.

To fill the book machine, the PTA budgeted \$3,000 to buy books (new and used) and the school hosted a used book drive which brought in an additional 700 books. Any book that does not fit in the machine is

donated to the school library. The Jefferson PTA has worked with school leadership to ensure Inchy is stocked with a variety of books to engage students of all ages and grade levels.

Twice during the school year teachers are given enough tokens for each student in their class to earn a free book. Books are earned by students embodying the Charger Code. The PTA leaves it up to the teachers to decide what that means for each individual student.

"I can tell you every student in the Jefferson building loves the vending machine. Every time we open it to fill, there are students appearing to see the inside and tell us how much they love the machine," said PTA President, Monique Webber. "We look forward to seeing our Chargers embracing reading and earning new books during the school year."

Principal, Steve Hopkins added, "Jefferson students absolutely LOVE the book vending machine! It's so fun to watch them come to the office with excitement to choose a book. They have a wonderful variety of books. We are so grateful to our Jefferson PTA for providing another way to build a sense of community here at Jefferson around the love of reading."

The PTA's hope is the book machine will help students form a love of reading and also help with all students feeling a sense of community and belonging within the Jefferson community.

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For more information:

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