



## **News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

### **San Jose Sharks Show Teamwork In Support of Bring Me A Book's San Jose Elementary School Library Initiative**

*Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Commemorates Sharks Foundation Funding of Literacy  
Programs in Franklin McKinley School District*

SAN Jose, Calif., October 26, 2010 – Franklin McKinley School District and Bring Me A Book (BMAB) held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the expansion of the San Jose Elementary School Library Initiative in Franklin McKinley School District. The Initiative is supported by the Sharks Foundation—the charity arm of the San Jose Sharks—whose mission is dedicated to enhancing the lives of youth and families in Santa Clara County with an emphasis in the areas of education, health and safety, and character development. Five Bookcase Libraries were presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms of Franklin Elementary School in a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by read aloud sessions with students and three San Jose Sharks players and foundation staff.

The installation of the Bookcase Libraries is being provided through a \$25,000 grant to BMAB from the Sharks Foundation, which is providing 20 Bookcase Libraries in 5 Franklin McKinley elementary schools in 2010. Each BMAB Bookcase Library features an open display bookcase filled with 30 new, hardcover, multicultural and age appropriate children's books. In addition to the new bookcases, the funding will provide First Teachers literacy workshops at each of the five schools to educate and inspire parents to read aloud with their children everyday.

Sharks defensemen Jason Demers, Derek Joslin, and Mike Moore signed autographs and thrilled the Franklin Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> grade students with their readings of "Where the Wild Things Are", "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie", and "Click Clack Moo". Sharks' mascot S.J. Sharkie was also on hand and got the crowd excited for reading.

"The Sharks Foundation is proud to partner with BMAB to promote student literacy in our community," Sharks Foundation representative Jeff Cafuir said. "With over 23,000 students, Reading is Cool is the Sharks Foundation's biggest program, and BMAB's Bookcase Libraries initiative is a natural fit."

The \$25,000 investment from the Sharks Foundation will continue the expansion of the San Jose Elementary School Library Initiative, which was first launched in 2005, to Franklin McKinley School District. With earlier funding investments from the Applied Materials Foundation, Cisco Systems, Junior League of San Jose, The Summit League, and Yahoo, BMAB has placed a Bookcase Library in every kindergarten classroom in Alum Rock Unified School District, Luther Burbank School District, and San Jose Unified School District. To date, investment funding has provided 220 Bookcase Libraries in 27 elementary schools and 80 First Teachers workshops to parents and caregivers of the children enrolled in these school sites.

"The installation of the Bookcase Libraries through a generous grant from the Sharks Foundation supports the District's initiative to encourage every student to read 25 books or more each year," said Dr. John Porter, Superintendent, Franklin McKinley School District. "As part of the Bring Me A Book Elementary School Library Initiative, this has helped us in making this expectation a reality for all of our students."

In 2010 BMAB provided all kindergarten classrooms in each of Franklin McKinley School District's 14 elementary schools with a Bookcase Library and a First Teachers workshop for parents and caregivers of students. With the Sharks Foundation funding, BMAB is able to extend the program to 20 first grade classrooms in 5 of Franklin McKinley School District's highest need schools.

"Study after study proves that children who have early exposure to reading and books, and who are read aloud to on a daily basis, do better in school," said Terri Clark, Executive Director, Bring Me A Book. "The key is access to books; and Bring Me A Book is serving over 450,000 children and parents at 1,700 sites throughout California to provide easy access to the best children's books and to inspire parents, caregivers, and teachers to read aloud to children for future success in school and life."

Bring Me A Book is a 501 (c) (3) award winning literacy nonprofit headquartered in Mountain View, CA. Bring Me A Book provides easy access to the best children's books and inspires reading aloud. Bring Me A Book places libraries of books in state funded preschools, elementary schools (K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), and community centers and provides a First Teachers literacy training workshop for parents, teachers, and caregivers. For media inquiries, contact Donovan Cook [dcook@bringmeabook.org](mailto:dcook@bringmeabook.org) (650) 625-5000 ext 232.

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