



Williamsburg County School District

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Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2024

COCKY'S READING EXPRESS VISITS WM ANDERSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cocky's Reading Express is a literacy outreach initiative from the University of South Carolina that was launched in 2005. This program, supported by a team of USC students and the university's beloved mascot Cocky, visited W.M. Anderson Primary School in the Williamsburg County School District on Friday, December 6, 2024. Tailored for Title I elementary schools across South Carolina, Cocky's Reading Express offers high-energy story times for students in pre-K through second grade. The initiative aims to inspire a lifelong love of reading and highlight the numerous benefits that come with it.

During each visit, students receive a free book to keep. The books provided by the program include a mix of fiction, nonfiction, and high-interest titles that are selected to reflect the diverse population they serve. Cocky's Reading Express visits approximately 20 schools each year and has distributed a total of 152,335 books since its inception. For the 2023-2024 school year, the program is on track to give away around 8,600 free books. Additionally, Cocky's Reading Express connects businesses, student organizations, and community members with Title I schools in book deserts, providing a year of literacy support, which includes maintaining a Little Free Library within the school library.