



Public Schools of Plainfield New Jersey

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Plainfield Public Schools Received Book Donation from St. James School in Basking Ridge

Plainfield, N.J. – March 18, 2021 - Plainfield Public Schools received more than 4,000 books last Friday from the students and families of St. James School in Basking Ridge.

The books were donated during a book drive spearheaded by Suzanne Toscano, Social Concerns Coordinator, for the St. James Home School Association.

"The purpose of St. James School's Social Concerns is to get our students involved in community outreach and to cultivate a lifelong desire to serve others," said Mrs. Toscano.

She said, "The importance of reading and developing a love of reading is important to children and holding the book drive to benefit students in Plainfield seemed like a great fit. We hope the children enjoy reading the books!"

The books were picked up in Basking Ridge by Plainfield Public Schools' Buildings and Grounds staff and delivered to several schools in the District.

The Principal of Dewitt D. Barlow Elementary School, Wilson Aponte, said, "We thank the children at St. James School for their generous donation. Our scholars will definitely enjoy having additional books. The books will be distributed to the students for their personal libraries. They love books and they love reading. Our school participates in daily reading sessions called "drop-everything and read," so many of our students are readers and they look forward to having more books."

Barlow students are currently learning virtually and they will be able to pick up the books during the lunch hour when they come to the school to pick up "Grab and Go" lunch or when they return to school for in-person instruction on April 12.

St. James School's students have partnered with Plainfield Public Schools since 2015. In previous years, they have collected books and toys for our pre-school program. For more information, please email gmontealegre@plainfield.k12.nj.us.