

The Dictionary Project

For 12 years our club has purchased and distributed paperback dictionaries to third graders in the Santa Barbara and Hope School Districts. Third grade is when teachers introduce students to dictionaries and they welcome our visits each year to hand out them out. The teachers do use computers and the Internet in their classes but they repeatedly report that the dictionaries (which are called a Gazetteer because of many additional encyclopedic pages) are cherished by the students. Many students come from homes where English is a second language and the dictionaries often end up in the hands of more family members than just the third grader. Because we've been doing this for so many years, students have had older brothers or sisters come home with the dictionary and now the new third graders as well as the teachers anxiously anticipate our visit. The school year of CORONA-19 is going to be particularly challenging but we will find a way to get the dictionaries into the hands of the students.