

Newport Town Students Will Get Books From CLiF

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CENTER — Newport Town partner with the Children's Education (CLiF) to bring the joy

of reading to the elementary school students. The school is one of eight in Vermont and New Hampshire that were selected to participate with CLiF for a year.

CLiF is a nonprofit organization that has served 170,000 students since 1998 working with more than 58 authors, poets, illustrators, and storytellers to share their talent. According to Executive Director Duncan McDougall, the schools get to choose the guest speakers who will appear monthly to encourage children to love reading.

Library Aide Jennifer Johnson applied for the opportunity to have CLiF on the team. Other area schools, including Lowell and Brownington, have also participated in the program. Johnson said CLiF will work with the school to help develop a year-

long program to encourage literacy among all students.

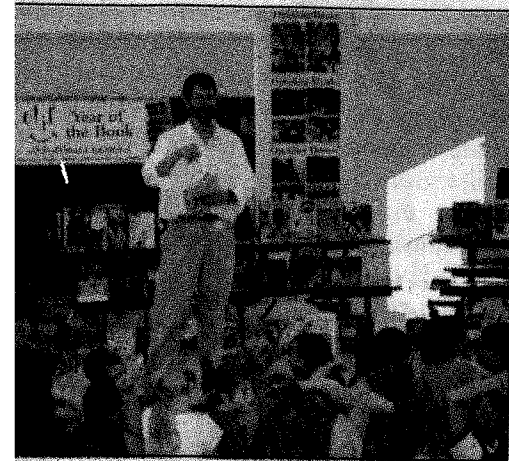
The benefits extend beyond guest speakers. There will be eight book giveaways, with a total of ten new books given to every student for his or her own personal library. In addition, each class teacher will receive a \$350 value in books and the school library will receive \$1,000 worth of books. The area library will also benefit with a gift of \$1,000 in books. This totals \$25,000 in books for

free.

"There's no state or federal funding involved," McDougall said. "We have donors who help to fund a year of CLiF activities." He encouraged teachers to provide feedback to CLiF, which can be shared with the donors to thank them for their support.

"The presenters are fantastic with kids,

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Director Duncan McDougall entertains Newport Town School on Tuesday morning.

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they'll share their love of books and they enhance creativity," McDougall said. He demonstrated by entertaining the students in his own right. McDougall engaged the students with stories and asked them questions, stimulating them to think creatively.

He led them through the different types of subjects books can cover — from adventure, animals, space, Greek mythology, and

graphic novels. Many of the students recognized the books and authors that were on display in the gym. Later in the day each class was taken to the library and walked away with their favorite books.

One criterion the CLiF uses to choose a participating school is to focus on low income, at-risk, and rural children, Head Start programs, and other social service

organizations.

Students and teachers were genuinely excited that CLiF chose Newport Town School by their response to his presentation. The students were attentive and excited that they will be able to bring home books of their own.