



By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Area schools received bilingual books from ESU 15 last week—expanding their libraries to promote literacy and the love of reading for all students.

The Wallace School library received approximately \$205 worth of bilingual books, and nearly \$75 worth of bilingual books was presented to the elementary library at Perkins County Schools in Grant.

The books were purchased with migrant education grant funds.

“Literacy is consistently associated with educational success and achievement,” said Jamie Garner, ESU migrant director. “And our program is here to assist ESU 15 schools with student achievement.”

Frequent relocation and cultural or language barriers disrupt education for migrant students. Frequent moves create social isolation, various health-related problems and other factors that inhibit their ability to do well in school.

ESU's goal is for migrant children to succeed academically by contributing to their literacy which will help head them in the right direction.

"I am glad to see bilingual books added to the school library so students can practice their vocabulary in both languages," said Yanis Helm, migrant coordinator with the Educational Service Unit 15 Migrant Education Program.

There are four bilingual students enrolled in the Wallace School system.

Coordinator of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) program in Grant, Michelle Snyder, said, "This program has given me an opportunity to see first hand what another culture is like. It also shows me how someone else might react to different types of customs and traditions, whether it's a positive or a negative reaction. I think this program is progressing nicely, but we still have a long way to go."

Snyder began teaching LEP full time at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year.

She is servicing nine students in elementary, five of whom possess the skill of being bilingual.

