



# **ROTARY CLUB OF STRONGSVILLE**

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## **Local news / photo opportunity**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **International Literacy Day:**

## **Third graders to get personal dictionaries**

Every third grade pupil in Strongsville schools next month will receive a personal dictionary. The dictionaries will be donated by the Strongsville Rotary Club to commemorate International Literacy Day, September 8, 2005.

On that day, members of the Rotary will visit each third grade classroom in the city to present personalized dictionaries to almost 700 third graders. For most of them, this will be their first dictionary. The Rotary hopes the books will provide a lifetime of use.

"As you get older you grow out of a lot of things, but a dictionary is something that you can have with you forever," said Ed Plaspohl, a director of the Strongsville Rotary who coordinated the project. "I still have my first dictionary. Even with technology and the Internet, this is a reference that you will always use."

In presenting the dictionaries to the pupils, Rotarians will explain the importance of reading and writing in all areas of life. In a signing ceremony, pupils will put their names on their dictionaries, inaugurating them into a lifetime of use.

In what the Strongsville Rotary expects to be an annual event, the club teamed up with the Dictionary Project, a national non-profit organization that has coordinated the donation of more than 1.8 million dictionaries since 1995. The goal of the program is to improve the reading ability and comprehension of all children.

A dictionary is usually the first and most powerful reference tool that a child owns. Its usefulness goes beyond the spellings, pronunciations and definitions it lists. It is also a companion for solving problems that arise as a child develops his or her reading, writing and creative thinking abilities.

Rotary International has identified literacy as one of its major themes this year. Rotary, a worldwide organization of about 1.2 million business and professional leaders, provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations and helps build goodwill and peace in the world.

Presentation have been scheduled at each of eight elementary schools in the Strongsville City School District as well as at St. Joseph and John Catholic School. Presentations at most schools will start at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8.

Media wishing to attend a presentation ceremony at one of the eight elementary schools in the Strongsville City School District should make arrangements through Scott Ross, director of communications and public relations, at 440-572-7026.

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