



Stone students give old books a new life

BY **CINDY LANDRUM**

staff writer

While students at Stone Academy were buying new books at the school's book fair, a parent suggested to media specialist Alice Littlejohn a book swap for all the books the children already had at home.

"Typically, a book gets read once and then it sits on a bookshelf," said parent Christi Bailey. "It's just a shame."

In two days last week, students brought in more than 600 books. One boy brought in 33.

Many of the books were books that had become too easy for them to read.

Some were series books that students had already read and hoped to trade for issues which they hadn't.

Picture books, chapter books and easy readers were turned in.

"Children age out of books. They don't read them anymore, but they don't want to throw them away," Littlejohn said.

Students in kindergarten through fifth-grade received one ticket for each book

they turned in for the swap.

This week, they were able to trade the tickets for new books.

First-grader Rowan Brown had nine tickets.

"My aunt likes the Junie B. Jones books and she loves to give them to me on my birthday," Brown said. "I've read a lot of them, but not this one."

The books she swapped were books she read when she was "teeny," she said.

Students were also encouraged to give their tickets away to other students or to leave them in the media center for students who didn't have any books to swap, Littlejohn said.

Even the teachers got into the act by bringing in adult books for their own book exchange. That exchange could even become an ongoing event, Littlejohn said.

Bailey said the swap is a good way to get "new" books into the hands of students and to keep unwanted books out of the landfill.

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