

## Fontana Unified School District

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### SOUTH TAMARIND AND TOKAY RECEIVE GRANTS FROM JAMES PATTERSON AND SCHOLASTIC READING CLUB

FONTANA, CA – South Tamarind and Tokay Elementary Schools have received grants from bestselling author James Patterson to support their school libraries. In addition, Scholastic Reading Club will match each dollar of Patterson’s donation with “bonus points” that teachers can use to acquire books and other materials for their classrooms. South Tamarind and Tokay were selected from 27,924 applications for grant funds.

As part of an ongoing effort to keep books and reading a number one priority in the United States, bestselling author James Patterson, together with Scholastic Reading Club made a commitment to help save school libraries nationwide. This year alone, Patterson personally donated \$1.75 million to school libraries nationwide, with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 allocated to each of the 467 selected schools. South Tamarind has been awarded \$4,000 and Tokay has been awarded \$3,000.

“We want to thank Mr. Patterson and Scholastic for awarding our schools these much needed and much appreciated funds,” said Superintendent Dr. Leslie Boozer.

FUSD Board President Lorena Corona agrees. “I am delighted for South Tamarind and Tokay Elementary Schools. Books for their libraries and additional books and materials for their teachers – that’s just fantastic.”

“These grants are my humble acknowledgement of some of the terrific work taking place in libraries,” says Patterson. “Here’s to communities supporting school libraries. Here’s to a country that makes reading a priority. Here’s to flourishing libraries and to a joyful holiday season!”

In the first-ever partnership of its kind, Patterson joined forces with Scholastic Reading Club to administer funding applications to their network of 62,000 schools and 800,000 teachers. Applicants were asked to fill out an online application posing the questions, “what would your school library do with \$1,000 to \$10,000?” The full list of grant recipients is available online at [www.scholastic.com/pattersonpartnership](http://www.scholastic.com/pattersonpartnership).

Any U.S. school with students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade was eligible for a grant. Patterson hopes that the high volume of requests will raise awareness for the problems facing school libraries

today. To learn more, go to [www.mediaroom.scholastic.com/scholasticreadingclub](http://www.mediaroom.scholastic.com/scholasticreadingclub) and follow #PattersonPledge on social media.

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South Tamarind Elementary School – Library Specialist Jennifer Espinoza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher Claudia Diaz, and Principal Joel Avina





Tokay Elementary School – Library Specialist Christine Rizk and Principal Rebecca Hinojosa. Teacher Kendra Mieux is not in photo.