

Winter 2025
Volume 30 No. 5

Hooked on Books for Kids

Looks on Books



16TH BEE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1



HBKids' 16th annual corporate spelling bee will be held on April 1 at the Zem Zem Shrine Club on W. 38th St. , with the doors opening at 5:00 for games, goody baskets, and yummy food and drink from the club's menu. **NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE!**

As always, teams of three adults sponsored by a business, office, or organization will vie for prizes in spelling, best costume, and most spirit. The emphasis is on fun, friendly competition, and raising money so HBKids can continue offering brand-new, high-quality books to the children and youth of Erie County.

We like to have 16-18 teams competing, with all their supporters providing noisy cheers and applause to urge their team to victory. Tickets are only \$15 and include a raffle ticket to win an outdoor furniture set.

Information about sponsorship and attending will be posted on our web site and Facebook page, plus via regular mail and email.

If you would like us to mail information and registration forms, please email us at dx11@psu.edu or call 814-431-3676. We would love to have you join us as spellers, sponsors, or donors.

SEE YOU ALL APRIL 1 AT ZEM ZEM!

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Hooked On Books For Kids
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Erie, PA 16508
(814) 421-3676
www.hookedonbooksforkidserie.org

YOU COULD WIN THIS LAWN SET!

THANKS TO NEW AND
RENEWING MEMBERS

Major Donors \$250+

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St Francis Ushers' Club

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Benefactors \$100+

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Friends \$10+

We value and thank all our donors and supporters for the gift of literacy, life-long learning, and the love of reading to thousands of needy children and youth in Erie County.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of you and others like you, and thank you again to all of our Erie Gives Day donors.



Thanks to Lowe's and the initiative of board member **Linda Smalley**, we are pleased to offer as a raffle prize this beautiful outdoor furniture set. The color is gray. Tickets will be available on our Facebook Page and at the Spelling Bee on April 1 for \$5 each, three for \$10.

We are looking for two new positions at HBKids

Our hard-working board members have many valuable skills, but none of us is talented in two vital areas—grant writing and publicity.

We would love to have but don't actually require professionals in either field—although they would of course be welcome. Anyone with good communication skills and a willingness to learn could fill one of these positions— just some time to volunteer and a love for nonprofits like ours.

The publicity person would help spread the word of what we do by seeking new publicity venues, writing press releases, approaching local news outlets, and any other ways his or her imagination and initiative could suggest.

The grant writer would not be expected to search and apply for major competitive grants but would be asked to locate local or regional companies, foundations, and clubs that donate to nonprofits.

We are a friendly, hard-working group of volunteers who promote literacy, life-long learning, and the love of reading by giving underprivileged children and youth brand-new books.

To inquire, email Dean at dxb11@psu.edu or calling him at 814-431-3676. No pressure. Just let us know if you're curious to learn more.



In Memoriam, Vicki Baldwin, 1943-2025

Please forgive me for stepping out of my role as anonymous writer of these newsletters. It is with a heavy heart that I here honor my wife of 60 years with a personal tribute.

I don't believe that Vicki was often mentioned, if at all, in our newsletters, nor was she ever a member of the board. Nevertheless, she was an important part of Hooked on Books for Kids from the very beginning in 1990. Not only did she support the time and energy I put into HBKids, but she also was my sharp-eyed proofreader, saving me from many embarrassing errors and misprints.

When the newsletters were printed, she and I worked together sealing and addressing newsletters, counting them, and for many years sorting them by zip code for mailing.

She faithfully attended all of our events, recruiting friends to join her, and cheering us on when we received an award or publicity.

I want also to thank my board members and so many others who supported, consoled, and prayed for us during Vicki's long illness. Thank you HBKids!

Humbly and sincerely, Dean Baldwin, President

PREFER EMAIL
TO PAPER?

If you prefer to receive your newsletter by email, with your next donation, include your email address and a note asking for online delivery, or send a notice to Dean Baldwin at dxb11@psu.edu.

However you get your newsletter, thanks for your support!

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

To keep up with our many activities, please "friend" us on Facebook. There you'll find photos of recent events, news of upcoming events, and comments by recipients of our books.

On our website, you can find information about our programs, an application to receive books, photos and a video of the hijinks at our annual spelling bee, and information about donating.

Remember, we are an all-volunteer organization, so we have no paid employees or officers and very low overhead. Eight-five to ninety percent of donations are used to purchase books; the rest goes to essential operating costs.

**WE ARE GOOD
STEWARDS WITH
YOUR MONEY!**

Hooked on Books for Kids
P.O. Box 3059
Erie, PA 16508

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Phone: (814) 431-3676
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Return Service Requested

Please note your renewal date

HOBFK is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization devoted to literacy, the love of reading, and life-long learning among the underprivileged children and youth of Erie County, Pennsylvania. It accomplishes these missions by giving brand-new, high quality books to underprivileged children and youth and by providing adult volunteer readers and new books for every child each month October through in grades K through 5 at Edison School.

Since our founding in 1990, we have distributed over 500,000 books.

WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP US?

Please use this coupon to lend us your support. The children and youth of Erie County will thank you.

Mail the completed form and check payable to "Hooked on Books for Kids," P.O. Box 3059, Erie, PA 16508.

Donations to Hooked on Books for Kids may be tax deductible for those who itemize.

_____ Major Donor \$250+ _____ Patron \$50+ _____ Friend \$10+
_____ Benefactor \$100+ _____ Sponsor \$25+

Please list my/our name as follows on any donor recognition materials: _____