

DREAM BOOK FAIRS REACH 2,000 YOUTH



The Historic Collaboration between My Very Own Library and DREAM will host its final Scholastic Book Fair for 2015

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Cabarete, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic- On May 11th, **The Dominican Republic Education and Mentoring (DREAM) Project** continues its collaboration with **My Very Own Library** and **Scholastic** by promoting reading in DREAM communities. This will be the final of three Scholastic Book Fairs, where over 2,000 students will select their final 3 FREE, NEW books each to take home to add to their very own home libraries, which total 10 NEW books. This particular book fair will partner with the Ivan Garcia Theatre School in Puerto Plata, with a focus on “Getting to know Don Quijote”. These shows that will add a Dominican twist to the classic tale of Don Quijote, blending reading and performance art. The book distribution and theatre performance will be paired with motivational literacy activities and talks by children’s author Ana Galan.

The event will take place at The DREAM Education Center in Cabarete, Puerto Plata and the event will highlight the importance of reading and its role in providing high quality education to the children of the Dominican Republic. DREAM also provides literacy support through public libraries, literacy programs and their innovative mobile library program **DREAM Con Libros**. These books will provide countless hours of reading, critical thinking and positive enriching activities in the houses of the underserved communities.

My Very Own Library has already changed the lives of more than 15,000 students who have participated in this innovative project in Newark, New Jersey and Richmond, California. This international expansion and partnership has provided even more books to youth and continued to promote our shared culture of reading <http://www.myveryownlibrary.org> .

Rocio Martinez, DREAM International Volunteer and Young Stars teacher, expressed her appreciation of the program:

“I love when after ‘Drop Everything and Read” my students talk and share about the books they received at the book fair. These authentic discussions are only possible because the students feel ownership of their books. It’s exciting to hear them talk about books in deeper ways. The MVOL Book Fairs have changed how my students feel toward reading.”

DREAM strives to support and partner with the Dominican Ministry of Education to improve academic results and create a shared culture of reading and high quality education. The goal of the DREAM Book Fairs is to improve literacy rates and ensure that all youth in the country have access to books and a brighter tomorrow, free from the cycle of poverty.

To learn more about the DREAM Project and to support this memorable event, please visit: www.dominicandream.org, or <http://www.myveryownlibrary.org> .

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