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The Imperial Republican

The CCS Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) book fair this week, featuring Scholastic Books, is a fundraiser for the organization.

Proceeds help purchase smartboards for classrooms, books for classrooms and books for students identified as having financial need.

That's according to PTO Vice President Lori Lane, who was busy Monday helping students make out their wish lists.

Parents of the students will receive the wish lists and will then be able to purchase those books for their children.

Last year, the PTO sold \$5,000 worth of books, which then benefited the organization to the tune of \$1,200 in cash and \$800 in book credit.

"We hope to do the same or surpass" last year, Lane stated.

There are between three and four thousand books for sale in the board room at Chase County Schools (CCS).

There are board books for the very young. There are series books for older elementary students. There are books based on the Bible. There are books based on celebrities.

There are books for sports fans, travel fans, pet fans and even cooking fans.

Wednesday and Thursday (today) the book fair will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Friday the book fair will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. so students can shop while enjoying "Lunch with Someone You Love," such as parents and grandparents.

The book fair will continue Friday from 4-8 p.m. during the high school basketball games.

"Our goal is to put as many books as possible in the students' hands," Lane stated.

Smart boards

So far PTO has contributed \$8,000 toward the purchase of some of the 17 smart boards at CCS. Box Tops for Education funding has also been used in the purchase. In addition, the Knights of Columbus purchased a smart board for the special education classroom.

Smart boards are an interactive teaching tool. The white board, which looks like an erasable marker board, comes with specific software. A smart board costs between \$1,200-1,500.

The teacher or student uses a finger as a mouse on the smart board, which is essentially a touch screen.

The smart board can access web content, Lane said, and can show videos. Students can also do work on the board.

The new mathematics curriculum has a video that goes with the lessons that can be shown on the smart board. The content is in both English and Spanish.

The teacher can stop the video and reinforce ideas, then ask students to participate in the lesson, Lane noted.

“The smart boards allow visual learners to see a great big picture on what’s being taught,” she said. “It allows immediate visual content to be delivered, as well as audio. Students learn in their learning style and can interact more.”