



## Hoopoe books give primary-grade readers a boost

Written by Town Crier Report

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Los Altos-based Hoopoe Books has donated an illustrated book to every child in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District's kindergarten through third-grade classes. A \$50,000 grant from the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefits Program made the holiday donation possible.

The Hoopoe Books Share Literacy Program Director Sally Mallam, a Los Altos resident, wrote and illustrated this year's donated book, "Dende Maro: The Golden Prince (Hoopoe Books, 2009). She read from her book to third-graders Dec. 18 at James McEntee Academy in San Jose.

"Books are a window into the world of wonder, of possibility, of exploration, of culture and of the human spirit," Alum Rock District Superintendent José L. Manzo said. "The district holds Hoopoe Books in the highest regard for its dedication to literacy and the well-being of children and communities. Hoopoe Books helps children develop an understanding of themselves and the world around them."

A nationwide program introduced in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2006, Hoopoe Books shares literacy partners with early education agencies serving poverty-level and low-income families, after-school programs and organizations providing ESL and adult literacy instruction.

For more information, visit [www.hoopoekids.com](http://www.hoopoekids.com) or contact Mallam at [Hoopoebooks@aol.com](mailto:Hoopoebooks@aol.com).