

## Literacy Wagon helps kids stay on track for school

This program is a non-profit organization that serves Central Washington. The program calls for a mobile summer education team that serves children who live in migrant farm worker camps.

While parents work in the fields, the team deepens the children's literacy skills to prepare them for the next academic school year.

### ~Program~

June 11 – July 18,

Tuesday – Thursday

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### ~Agenda~

10 AM –Registrations

10: 15AM—Activities and reading\*

12PM—Lunch

12:30PM—Book exchange

1PM—Closing

\*Activities include educational activities, art, and other games.

Contact Daisy Perez at  
(509) 965-7117 ext. 1014  
to sign-up to volunteer  
or to donate books



Literacy Wagon:  
Diocese of  
Yakima



## Teacher connects with kids

Lisa Martinez, teacher at Saint Joseph School in Wenatchee, has been a volunteer for the last two summers. She wanted to help to connect with kids and help them maintain their literacy skills.

“The experience has been positive... I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with the awesome kids at camp.”

She continues to volunteer, and says it’s a great experience for her teenage kids.

“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matt19:14).

## Help serve the community

Seminarian Michael Kelly says the program is important because the community loves it, and the program’s purpose, as well as the seminarians, is to serve the community.

“Serving as a volunteer with the Literacy Wagon program gives you the chance to discover the lives of people different from you, and it also gives you the opportunity to discover, in a new way, yourself.”

He says we have all been given gifts and have been called by the Lord to use those gifts to serve the people around us.

Michael is able to help children build the skills they need to pursue their dreams, and with his presence, let families know the Catholic Church cares for them.

## New story-time librarian

Anni Ponder, Bilingual Outreach Specialist for North Central Regional Library, says being able to help children read is rewarding and the benefits lasts the children a lifetime.

“I love being involved in projects that help children succeed!”

## The importance of children

Seminarian Christian Melendez has previously been part of the program and says the program helps enrich children’s social and problem-solving skills. But it is also an opportunity to evangelize children through educational and playful activities.

“I am reminded that God uses individuals from all ages to reveal his message and in the innocence of children (in the program), I have received God’s good news.”

Christian, as well as the other volunteers, are able to experience God’s love transmitted through the children.

The program allows you to become closer to God through a smile of a child, their desire to learn, and their curiosity disguised as questions.



