



Mark Twain has a new principal!

We are so excited that long time FUMCR member, Sharon Erickson is the new principal at MTE! Sharon grew up in Bowie, Texas and is a graduate of the University of North Texas, where she met her husband Brian. She and Brian are both RISD educators of more than 25 years, and are the parents of two boys who are Pearce graduates.

When speaking about the role that FUMCR plays at Mark Twain, Sharon's enthusiasm was obvious. "When I saw how much work was done to support our teachers and staff and to help prepare for the new year it just blew me away." Perhaps even more important, Sharon says, are the books that the church provides to each of her students. She said that seeing the joy of a student picking their own book out and saying "you mean it's mine; I can keep it?" absolutely makes her day.

Asked to sum up the partnership between Mark Twain Elementary and First Methodist, Sharon puts it quite succinctly. Smiling, she said "FUMCR loves Mark Twain, and we love you right back!"



Another Successful Work Day to start the new school year!

One way that FUMCR loves our partner schools is helping them get ready for a new school year. More than 100 volunteers worked hard to do it again this year! We helped teachers at Greenwood Hills and Mark Twain set up their rooms, decorate their halls and in general prepare the schools to welcome the students for another year!



RISD opposed voucher initiative fails in Special Session

In April, the RISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to oppose any new voucher program until public schools are fully funded. The resolution adopted and background information for the Trustees' position can be found at <https://communityimpact.com/dallas-fort-worth/richardson/education/2023/04/14/richardson-isd-board-of-trustees-voice-opposition-to-voucher-proposal/>. Due primarily to opposition from rural legislators, state funding of private schools was defeated in November, resulting in the RISD Trustees' position being affirmed by the Texas House of Representatives.

This is an important issue for our partner schools, and for all of RISD. We are hopeful that efforts to adequately fund public education will continue, and will be successful.



Fall Festival

Members of the CF committee hosted two decorated trunks at the Fall Fest on October 22nd in the FUMCR parking lot. Candy and small toys were given to children of the church, neighborhood families and we had some students from our partner schools join the fun!

