

## Metro South Bay Stresses Reading and Safety to Elementary Kids

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 13, 2002) The kids at John Ritter Elementary School in Los Angeles recently got two valuable tips from Metro South Bay – read more books and be safe around buses and trains.

General Manager Dana Coffey, along with Los Angeles Unified School District officials, spoke before an assembly of some 200 students, Sept. 6, about the value of reading and the importance of books.

Coffey shared with the audience of first through fifth graders and parents, her favorite Dr. Seuss books as part of the school's "One Million Words Campaign." The program challenges students this school year to read 25 books, the rough equivalent of a million words.

"You should also read the newspaper," said Coffey, who urged the students to take an interest in the news publications the children see in their homes and schools.

As part of her presentation Coffey and Communications Officer Vicky Woods recruited eight students to display for the audience posters containing the names of various newspaper sections.

Emphasizing the need to be safe, the Metro South Bay general manager passed out Metro bus and train safety checklists to the students.

"Don't stand too close to the curb and don't run alongside the bus," she said, warning the students to be careful while waiting for the Metro bus.

Second grader Maira Carrillo, whose favorite book is the "Gingerbread Man" said, "I can read four books a week and finish a million words." Classmate Astride Enriquez vowed to give up some television to reach her goal of a million words.

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