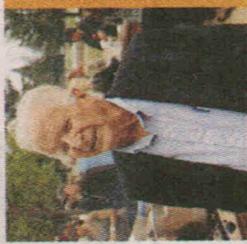


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LIVE OAK ELEMENTARY

Students enjoy a free book fair

Local nonprofit gives away hundreds of paperbacks

By Kara Guzman
newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com
[@karambutan on Twitter](https://twitter.com/karambutan)

LIVE OAK » Anita Harten-Kroeber caught the attention of some third-graders at a free book fair at Live Oak Elementary's library on Friday.

She's the founder of Launch

Pad, a Soquel-based children's book giveaway nonprofit that hosted the fair.

"Does anybody know this book?" Harten-Kroeber asked, holding up a paperback with a girl and her dog on its cover. "It's called 'Because of Winn Dixie.'"

As the group oohed and ahned, two students grabbed for it from

Harten-Kroeber's hands. "Rock, paper, scissors!" chanted one of the onlookers.

Each one of the 400 students at the school chose a free book on Friday — the first schoolwide giveaway for Launch Pad.

Founded in 2011, Launch Pad began as a tutoring program for

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Anita Harten-Kroeber's Launch Pad brings free books to Live Oak Elementary students Friday.

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