



McAuliffe Students Rev Up Their Reading

September 8, 2008 – When teachers at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School wanted to help students understand their year-long “Rev up Your Reading” theme, they wanted the message heard loud and clear.

A race car in their parking lot did the trick.

On August 29, race-car driver and Greeley businessman Bruce Yackey parked his black-and-green Number 12 car outside the school for all the students to get a view and a high-RPM listen to what “revving up” really is.

All school year, the students will earn points for reading books and be able to track them on a chart outside the school’s Debby Merrill Library.

Yackey is president of Greeley Automotive Machine Inc., which is a full-service machine shop that specializes in custom racing engines. He is also a product of the District 6 school system, having graduated from Greeley Central High School. He races regularly at Colorado National Speedway.

During the assembly in the McAuliffe gym, he told students the importance of being able to read and how that skill can open up so many other doors of possibility. He said he has to read a great deal of technical material every day in order to be informed on the best ways to run his business, build engines and race cars.

After speaking with the students, he and the staff led them outside to the school’s south parking lot, which was empty except for one car right in the middle. The students lined the sidewalks all around the lot, and Yackey climbed through the driver’s side window to start his car.

The Number 12 racer produced a monstrous, yet controlled roar – the sound of a well-tuned, high-performance engine. The students cheered when they heard it, then cheered even louder when some of their own started racing. Three younger students hopped into battery-operated toy cars, waited for a teacher to wave the “go” flag, and raced around the parking lot. Three older students followed in a race of human-powered, two-wheel scooters.

Yackey revved his car some more, and the students went back inside to talk more about the revved-up reading program.



Stock car driver Bruce Yackey climbs into his race car to help inspire McAuliffe Elementary students in the “Rev Up Your Reading” program.



McAuliffe students take off in a race to mark the beginning of their school’s new reading program.