

## Reading rewards: Students earn burger bucks to send to soldiers

BY LISA FRYE

SVN NEWS REPORTER

[lfrye@svnmail.com](mailto:lfrye@svnmail.com)

STERLING — Reading is a reward all its own, but Jefferson School students are sharing their reading rewards with soldiers stationed overseas.

During December, the preschoolers through second-graders have been reading to earn "burger bucks" from Burger King. Their goal was to read 100 books, which would be worth \$10 in burger bucks. In all, the students earned \$240 worth of burger bucks to send to soldiers stationed with the National Guard 1644th Transportation Co. from Rock Falls and the F/202 ADA, comprised of soldiers from the Dixon, Galva and Kewanee National Guard units.

"We wanted to do something very special to say, 'Thank you for helping our country,'" said Kay Young, reading teacher, during the presentation of the burger bucks Monday. Students read more than 2,000 books in three weeks, she said.



[Click For Larger View.](#)

"We have super readers in this school," she said.

The soldiers have access to some American fast-food restaurants in Kuwait and Iraq.

"Some of them will walk miles for the Burger King," Young said. "They'll really appreciate these."

Four family members of local soldiers who are serving in Iraq or Kuwait attended the presentation and thanked the students for reading. Jeanne Kuba, whose son Michael is serving overseas, said she e-mailed him and told him the burger bucks were coming.

"He's really waiting for those," she told the students.

Young devised the idea for the December reading project and said she contacted the Burger King corporate office about participating. They agreed to support the project, she said.

"I wanted some way for the children to keep reading," she said. "It was a fun project for December and it kept them reading."

Besides the burger bucks, the students will send notes and pictures from their project for the soldiers, Young said.

Each student also received a coupon for a hamburger from Burger King as a reward for the project.

© Copyright 2004 Sauk Valley Newspapers. All rights reserved.

You can read this story online at <http://www.saukvalley.com//search/282260592866571.bsp>

**Subscribe to the Telegraph of Daily Gazette today!**

Get the entire story 7 days a week. Call (815) 625-3600 ext. 301 or subscribe online at