

## NEWS RELEASE

**Wayne Township Board of Education**  
50 Nellis, Drive, Wayne, N.J. 07470

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For Immediate Release

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**ALBERT P. TERHUNE & RYERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS RECEIVE GRANT FROM  
JAMES PATTERSON AND SCHOLASTIC READING CLUB FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**Wayne, NJ- November 18, 2016** – A. P. Terhune & Ryerson Elementary School received grants today from bestselling author **James Patterson** to support their school libraries. In addition, **Scholastic Reading Club** will match each dollar of Patterson’s donation with “bonus points” that Media Specialists, Mrs. Carruthers and Mrs. Halstater can use to acquire books and other materials for their Schools’ Media Centers. A.P.Terhune and Ryerson were selected amongst thousands of applications for funding grants. To learn more, listen to Patterson’s exclusive interview about the critical need for school libraries on the “Scholastic Reads” podcast: [oomscholasticblog.com/podcast/james-patterson-loves-libraries](http://oomscholasticblog.com/podcast/james-patterson-loves-libraries)

James Patterson and Scholastic Reading Club announced in March 2016 that Patterson would donate \$1.75 million to save school libraries nationwide in the second installment of his School Library Campaign. As part of an ongoing effort to keep books and reading a number one priority in the United States, selected school libraries will be receiving grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Since the grant program’s launch in 2015, Patterson has donated \$3.5 million to school libraries nationwide, with all funds are being personally donated by Patterson.

*Since becoming the Media Specialist at Ryerson, Mrs. Halstater has been transforming the Media Center into a hub of learning. “With this grant money I will purchase materials that will help me to continue my mission of creating a space where a lifelong love of reading is nurtured and endless possibilities of learning are opened up to all of our children here at Ryerson Elementary School,” says Mrs. Halstater.*

“We’ve just come out of the most divisive presidential election in history – and among all the issues that captivated voters, education wasn’t one of them. It was hardly discussed,” says Patterson. “Nearly half of the American population reads at or below a basic level, and we need to address that problem to foster an informed future electorate. I’ve made it my mission to underscore the vital role reading plays in children’s lives, and the need to sustain school libraries is at the heart of that mission.”

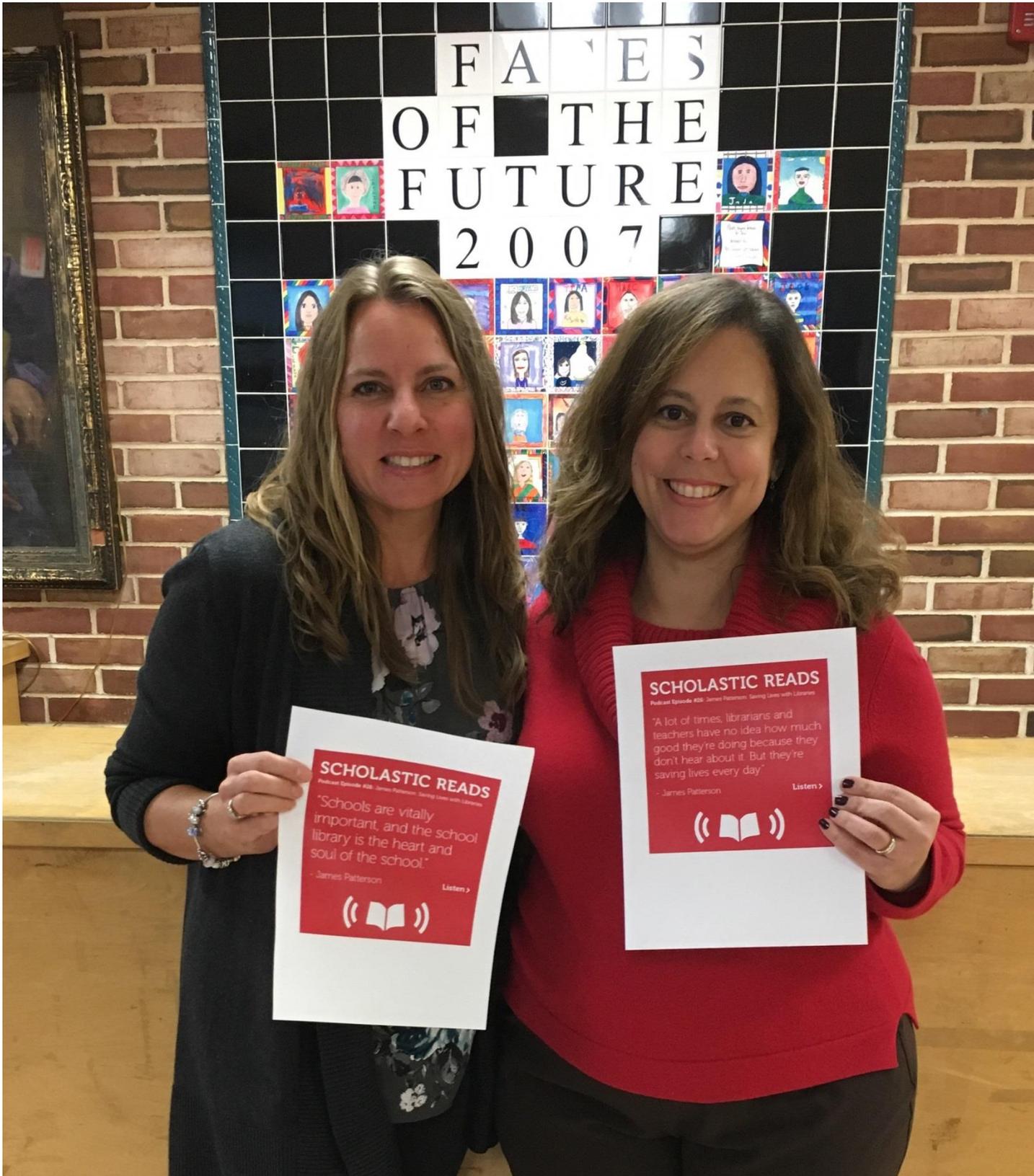
*“I am so excited to be partnering with James Patterson and Scholastic to highlight the importance of school libraries. This grant affords me the opportunity to purchase the materials to create an engaging and vibrant space, here at A.P. Terhune, that invites students into the world of literature,” says Mrs. Carruthers.*

“Last year’s ‘Patterson Pledge’ showed communities nationwide how important school libraries are, but also how gravely desperate they are for books to fill their shelves in the midst of steep budget cuts,” said Judy Newman, President of Scholastic Reading Club. The amazing outpouring from schools combined with the continued generosity of James Patterson helped us solidify a second year of grants to help more children have access to high-quality books and, ultimately, revive school libraries. We are proud to announce this year’s new grant recipients and thank James Patterson for his continued personal commitment to save school libraries.”

In the first-ever partnership of its kind, Patterson joined forces with Scholastic Reading Club to administer funding applications to their network of 62,000 schools and 800,000 teachers. Schools entering were asked to share the story of their school library, including past efforts to make improvements and “great ideas to help create a brighter future.” Patterson personally read and selected the winning recipients of the grants. Based on past winners, school libraries across the country have been using this funding to purchase new books, add bookshelves, make improvements to their catalog systems, and expand their programming. The full list of grant recipients is available online at <http://www.scholastic.com/pattersonpartnership/recipients>.

To learn more, go to [mediaroom.scholastic.com/scholasticreadingclub](http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/scholasticreadingclub) and follow #PattersonPledge on social media.

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**SCHOLASTIC READS**  
Podcast Episode #28 - James Patterson: Saving Lives with Libraries

"Schools are vitally important, and the school library is the heart and soul of the school"

- James Patterson [Listen >](#)



**SCHOLASTIC READS**  
Podcast Episode #28 - James Patterson: Saving Lives with Libraries

"A lot of times, librarians and teachers have no idea how much good they're doing because they don't hear about it. But they're saving lives every day"

- James Patterson [Listen >](#)

