



book harvest

## Books on Break 2016

### Final Report:

*Energizing* students to read and retain their academic skills over the summer.

**Why Books on Break?** At the end of each school year, many students in our community face a summer without books and academic enrichment. This leads to students losing *two months or more* of reading skills. Books on Break is an evidence-based program of Book Harvest in which children in grades K-5 select books to take home for the summer and keep forever. Access to books, especially books students choose for themselves, has been shown to stop this decline in reading skills.



Look what we accomplished in 2016, working together:  
**A total of 9,057 students from 26 elementary schools  
in four districts selected books to read over the summer and keep forever!**

Here's how these numbers break down:

- **3,949** students filled their new string backpacks with 10 books each, for a total of **39,490** books. Each backpack was preloaded with tips and resources for parents.
- **16** elementary schools partnered with Book Harvest to run Books on Break, including Eastway, Forest View, Glenn, Lakewood, and YE Smith from **Durham Public Schools**; New Hope from **Orange County Schools**; and 10 elementary schools from **Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools**.
- **10** schools in **Durham** and **Chatham** counties participated in Book Harvest's inaugural Books on Break toolkit program. Each school received a Books on Break "how to" guide and a seed grant of 500 books to fuel their efforts to provide books for students to take home for the summer. It worked: **5,108** students selected **12,873** books!
- **100+** volunteers from over **10** organizations set up books, ran book drives, and helped students select their books.
- For a snapshot of the partners who make this important work possible, please see the other side of this page. Collaborations are vital to the success of Books on Break!

Book Harvest provides books to children who need them and engages families and communities to promote children's lifelong literacy and academic success. We believe that books are essential to children's healthy development and well-being and that all children deserve to grow up in book-rich homes. To learn more, visit [www.bookharvestnc.org](http://www.bookharvestnc.org).



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