



DAWN DE BUSK/Frontiersman

**Butte Elementary students Carly Venzke, 7, and Morgen Lundin, 7, sport the scarves they made in three 30-minute sessions of an after school program, designed to promote reading and illustrate knitting as an activity.**

# Scarves and stories

## Literacy program includes knitting lessons

**DAWN DE BUSK**  
Frontiersman reporter

**BUTTE** — A dozen first- and second-graders sport freshly knitted scarves in yellow, red, pink and white.

The scarves are the end product of an after-school program that was held for three Thursdays in January at Butte Elementary School.

Whether the task of knitting was difficult or a cinch depends on who you ask, but a few extra helping hands were required to finish the projects, according to Myler Almandinger, with the

of Palmer Public Library, gave the students an opportunity to get exposure to books that run in series, according to head librarian at the Palmer Public Library Candy Kopperud. The grants paid for copies of the "American Girls" series and snacks and juice for the students, she said.

"A lot of kids that young haven't been introduced to the idea of several books about the same character," Kopperud said.

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild donated yarn and knitting needles for the program, and Almandinger helped the kids get the hang of knitting.

scarf to her mother as a gift.

"My older sister gave me some knitting needles," Bingham said, explaining that she was a little bit familiar with the craft already.

Another student, Morgen Lundin, 7, said her mother knits and bought her the book "Kids Knitting." She plans to engage in some knitting time with her mom now that she's learned a few stitches.

"It's fun and it takes time. But, yes, I love to knit," Lundin said.

Kopperud said the response from the dozen students attending the pilot project was positive.

"The kids were excited. They



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**Myler Almandinger, with the Valley Fiber Arts Guild, reads an excerpt from the American Girls series and Carrie Lyn Stemen, 7, enjoys the story.**

## Knit

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"The Magic School Bus" series. The program will focus on color, light and volcanoes. The students will engage in a science project of making a volcano that erupts when a combination of baking soda and vinegar foams up, Kopperud said.

"The kids and parents have to make a commitment to come for four sessions. The school has been really great about organizing sign-ups for the program," Kopperud said.

"That's a commitment on the part of the parent, too, because they have to pick the kids up," she said.

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