



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Erica Wright  
Communications/Media Coordinator  
417-625-5180  
ewright@empiredistrict.com

### **EMPIRE HOLDS CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR TO BENEFIT JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY**

JOPLIN, MO – December 7, 2016 – The Empire District Electric Company will hold a Scholastic Book Fair on Thursday and Friday, December 8 and 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at their office located at 602 S. Joplin Avenue, to benefit Jefferson Elementary School.

Empire has served as the Business in Education partner for Jefferson Elementary School for more than 20 years. A committee of Empire volunteers assists the school with various projects throughout the year, including a book fair.

According to committee member, Rick Stockton, who is heading up this year's book fair, "Books make perfect Christmas gifts. Plus, it is a convenient way for Empire employees, retirees and customers to check a few items off their shopping list and provide a lasting educational gift for the students at Jefferson Elementary. Each purchase results in a donation of 'Scholastic dollars' for the purchase of books for the school."

Since 2003, Empire Book Fair patrons have provided over \$11,000 in sales to fund the purchase of more than 1,000 books for the school.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company (NYSE: EDE) is an investor-owned, regulated utility providing electric, natural gas (through its wholly owned subsidiary The Empire District Gas Company), and water service, with approximately 218,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit [www.empiredistrict.com](http://www.empiredistrict.com).

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