

For Immediate Release

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Cocky's Reading Express Visits James Simons Elementary School

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CHARLESTON — Over 200 James Simons Elementary students were excited to see Cocky, mascot for the University of South Carolina along with some USC student leaders reading and dramatizing favorite books in their school Media Center. To encourage reading and education, Cocky's Reading Express visits schools all over the state, reading books aloud and giving books away to students.

Students in child-development classes through third-grade gathered in the Media Center to hear stories read by students from a variety of majors at USC with the finale being Cocky's appearance and antics while a student helper read a book. The students' highlights of the visit were Cocky's acting out of *The Little Red Hen* and his playful peck on the head of one of their teachers.

Kim Livingston, media specialist, said, "We are always looking for opportunities to show our students how fun reading is and can be, and it's great to have the students from USC and most importantly, Cocky, help get our kids excited about reading. We are so thankful for their visit."

For more information about reading at James Simons Elementary School, please contact Principal Lynn Owings or Media Specialist Kim Livingston at 724-7763.

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