

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 28, 2011

### *Arpaio Deemed "Too Controversial" To Read to Kids*

### *Washington School District Officials Refuse to Allow Sheriff into Classroom*

(Phoenix, AZ) The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at a Central Phoenix school recently requested that their teacher ask the Sheriff to read to them this week as part of "Read Across America" week. When the teacher contacted the Sheriff, Arpaio was delighted to accept the invitation. The Sheriff reads to students every year as part of various literacy programs.

Slated to be in the Sahuaro Elementary School, 12835 North 33rd Avenue, classroom this Friday, Arpaio's appearance was abruptly cancelled, apparently at the Assistant Superintendent level because "Arpaio was too controversial" and parents of Hispanic students would likely complain.

Arpaio doesn't blame the teacher but rather the administrators of the school and says that politics has no place in a sixth grade classroom.

"To disrespect the chief law enforcement authority of the county in this way is a bad example to students and the community overall," Arpaio says. "The program I was to participate in was about literacy - the importance of reading - and had nothing whatsoever to do with law enforcement or my efforts to fight illegal immigration."

Arpaio was one of a number of prominent names invited to read this week to the school age children.

According to the teacher who first extended the invite and then had to un-invite the Sheriff, this is the only time in the past several years of the program that anyone was refused to participate by school administrators. END

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