



STATE OF IDAHO  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
LAWRENCE DENNEY

For Immediate Release – Monday, April 23, 2018

**Press Release**

**Secretary Denney Recognizes Seven Oaks Elementary History Bee Team**

**Eagle, Idaho** — The Idaho History Bee Team from Seven Oaks Elementary was recognized today by Secretary of State Lawrence Denney for finding and reporting a misstated fact published in the 2017-2018 Blue Book. Because of their diligence, research, and attention to detail, the History Bee Team was able to point out that the Blue Book references Idaho as the 13<sup>th</sup> largest state in Land Area, when it is in fact the 14<sup>th</sup> largest state overall. The statistic can be traced back as far as the 1971 edition of the book, where it is believed that a different statistic (Land area, not total area) was referenced for the ranking.

Secretary Denney was so impressed with these young people's initiative to take an active interest and participation in the documentation of Idaho State history, he presented each student with a letter of recognition, and a personally signed and corrected copy of the Idaho Blue Book with statistics based off of the most recent 2010 census data and rankings. This information, along with a link referencing the letter sent by the team, has been added to the online version of the Idaho Blue Book. (see page 2 of the [Blue Book](#))

The entire school was present to recognize these outstanding students, including teachers and staff. The entire fourth grade had a short Q & A with Secretary Denney and Deputy Secretary Chad Houck immediately following the assembly to answer questions and share what the office had found as they corrected the error the students had pointed out. The students had pointed out one issue, but it led to the clarification and actual change of four points in the book.

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**ABOUT LAWRENCE DENNEY**

Since 1990, Lawrence Denney has served the people of Idaho, first as a representative in what was then District 13. Following redistricting, he became a representative for District 9, where he would serve until 2014. He served two terms as Majority Leader, and 3 terms as Speaker of the House before successfully running for state office as Secretary of State in 2014. He is currently in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his 1<sup>st</sup> term.

**ABOUT SEVEN OAKS ELEMENTARY**

**Principal:** Lil Folkner

**Seven Oaks Elementary School** is a learning place where PreK-5 students are instructed by highly skilled teachers with engaging and thoughtfully prepared lessons. Our staff takes a collaborative approach to education and takes pride in making each day a learning day for our students. We strive to integrate high levels of respect, responsibility, and safety in our classrooms, hallways, and playground as well.