

GOOD MORNING READER

Santa, Mrs. Claus share cookies with children at Pendora Park

Sunday December 6, 2015 12:01 AM

By **Anthony Orozco**

Reading, PA

Taking time out from their busy December schedule, Santa and Mrs. Claus paid a visit to children in East Reading on Saturday morning.

Families stopped by the Pendora Park field house for a morning filled with gifts, cookies and Christmas wishes.

"It is a nice opportunity for families to take their own photo with Santa," said Heather Boyer, program supervisor with the Reading Recreation Commission. "This is a nice holiday event, free of charge."

Boyer said she expected about 300 people to take part in the event that not only gave children Santa's ear, but also a chance to take a photo with the jolly old man and the missus.

As a bonus, each child could take home two free books and enjoy some cookies.

Books were donated by the Salvation Army, and candy and refreshments were donated by local businesses, Boyer said.

"I've seen people take these pictures, and they end up on their Christmas cards," Boyer said.

Santa and Mrs. Claus were portrayed by city recreation commission member Otis Smith and West Reading Recreation Commission Chairwoman Nathalie Kulesa.

Kulesa and Smith praised the event between shoots with children on their laps or at their sides.

"It's all about seeing the smile on kids' faces," Smith said through his cottony beard. "The fact that everyone can come makes it special."

Juan Perez and his fiancée, Laurie



Jayliana Perez, 1, of Reading gets a kiss on the head from her father, Juan, during Cookies with Santa.

Gage Martinez, 3, of Reading sits with Santa during Cookies with Santa on Saturday in the Pendora Park field house.

Cortez, made the walk to the park from their home near Eighth and Douglass streets with their children Jayliana, 1, Janilis, 3, and Jamira, 6. It was the family's first time to the annual event, now in its third year. "It is a far walk for us, but it's awesome," Perez said. "We do it for them (the children). They don't always have to stay home, and it is something we can do as a family."

The kids asked for bikes, toys and clothes while with Santa.

Perez said they had been pretty good over the past year and that he suspects Santa may give them some of the things they requested.

Contact Anthony Orozco: 610-371-5015 or aorozco@readingeagle.com.