

READ TO THEM

Newsletter - Fall 2012



JOHN DWYER AND BRUCE COFFEY HARD AT WORK

READ TO THEM SAILS INTO NEW RICHMOND, VA OFFICE

Following its phenomenal growth in 2011-2012, Read to Them moved into new offices in the Ironfronts Building in downtown Richmond.

Current staff include:

- John Dwyer, Executive Director
- Bruce Coffey, Director, *One School One Book*
- Gary Anderson, Founder
- Joanie Bache, Non Profit Consultant
- Jan Bates, Newsletter Editor
- Logan Sorese, Website Support
- Laura Bowser, Media Strategist
- John Micklos, Press Envoy

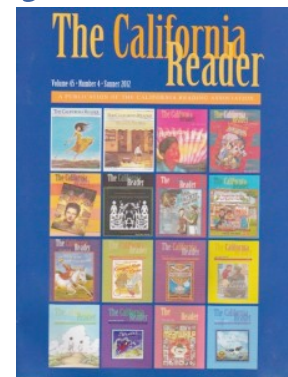
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One School, One Book

Featured in the *California Reader*



The summer 2012 edition of *California Reader* magazine, which reaches over 390,000 California readers, features an article by John Micklos. The former International Reading Association editor of *Reading Today*, John is an experienced source for literary advice. In this feature story John introduces readers to the amazing program we know as **One School, One Book**, and explains the nature and benefits of the program.

“Parents are the biggest influence on young children,” notes RTT Executive Director, John Dwyer. “This program gives parents a great opportunity to be involved in their children’s education.”

Download the complete article here:

<http://bit.ly/UDmAxzf>

READ TO THEM

How a High School jump-started *One School, One Book* for an Elementary School. A gem of an idea from a “never give up” teacher!

Spotsylvania, Virginia

Lisa Andruss, wanted to unite her Livingston Elementary School and Spotsylvania High School community. As most Livingston students would one day become Spotsy High students, the goal was to create positive relationships and foster a love of reading. She thought OSOB might do the trick. She also wanted to ensure that Livingston E.S. could join other Spotsy elementary schools in the OSOB fold. And she thought high school students could be enlisted to make it all happen. Lisa states, “This collaboration would NEVER have been possible were it not for High School teacher, Stephanie Fellingner and her Writers’ Club.” RTT says it wouldn’t have been possible without Lisa’s inspiration.

In preparation for this collaboration, approximately 100 high school students read *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney and then paired with Livingston teachers to build. The Spotsy High students planned and presented a school-wide assembly introducing the program and the book. They performed a Humphrey Skit, complete with a hamster costume (photo above) and the cheerleaders leading the entire student body in a Humphrey cheer and the Hamster Dance. High School Business students made a bookmark that outlined the reading schedule. Students from the Commonwealth Governor’s School became active pen pals with Livingston students (photo right). Other students made videos of the morning trivia questions. The



Spotsy High students took a field trip to Livingston to help the students write acrostic poems about Humphrey.

Parents overwhelmingly appreciated the family time OSOB created. And Livingston students commented on how much they enjoyed the high school students. The collaboration between the schools was a superior idea that lead to success, proving “*Where there’s a will, there’s a way.*” Thanks to Lisa Andruss for taking OSOB to a whole new level !



READING TIPS FOR PARENTS.....FIND ‘EM ON iTUNES

RTT’s audio tips are now available for download on iTunes. This capability was added in response to elementary principals’ requests that the reading tips be more accessible for their “on the go” parents.

<http://readtothem.org/why-read-aloud/reading-tips/>

READ TO THEM

Share YOUR Story!

E-mail RTT Newsletter Editor, Jan Bates, with your success story at jan.bates@readtothem.org

- How do you fund OSOB?
- How do you maintain or increase OSOB participation?
- Tell us how you spread OSOB to area schools.
- Please share with RTT parent and staff testimonials!
- What is YOUR success story?

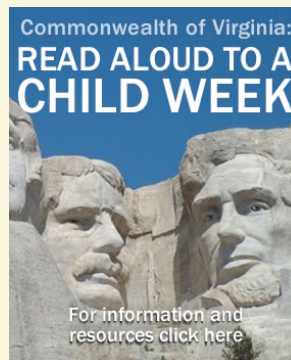


Bentonville, Arkansas students glow with enthusiasm for ODOB!



See the complete story about Bentonville's community connections on the following page !

RTT Sponsors Virginia's Read Aloud to a Child Week October 21-27, 2012



RTT is happy to announce that it will sponsor Read Aloud to A Child Week in Virginia. By visiting the RTT website, Virginia schools can download a Read Aloud To A Child Week Pledge Certificate, examine the program guidelines, available resources and special suggested activities related to this year's theme "American Presidents." [<http://readtothem.org/read-aloud-to-a-child-week>] For schools who are not yet OSOB participants, this is a good opening activity to inspire families to become active readers at home. Studies have shown that family literacy helps build strong readers and writers and bridges the gap between school and home.

The origin of Read Aloud to a Child Week dates back to 2002 when Gary Anderson (Founder of RTT) while working to promote Read Aloud Virginia and to increase the habit of reading aloud in Virginia families, approached the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and asked him to propose the establishment of Read Aloud to a Child Week annually in October by Virginia legislators. Once Read Aloud To A Child Week became official Virginia legislation, the program was promoted by PSA's on Richmond television channels featuring then Governor Mark Warner reading aloud to his own child. The practice of reading aloud established in Read Aloud Virginia schools lives on in many of these same schools, who today have become successful participants in OSOB.

Celebrate Read Aloud To A Child Week by encouraging the same initiative in your State Legislature!

READ TO THEM

Bentonville, Arkansas in the RTT News AGAIN!!

As reported by Wendy Hannah, Library Media Specialist, Apple Glen Elementary School

This story represents how a successful *One District, One Book* (ODOB) program made connections to its community to enhance ODOB...in really amazing ways! Last year, Bentonville Public Schools (BPS) read *The Sixty-Eight Rooms* by Marianne Malone, choosing this book because of its setting and connections with the Art Institute of Chicago. They partnered this book with the nonfiction book, *The Miniature Rooms* by Fannia Weingartner. This book presents photographs along with documentation of the history and creation of the miniature rooms by Mrs. James Ward Thorne. Each school purchased a copy of Weingartner's book for its library, and students were able to actually see the rooms from Mrs. Malone's book. Nine BPS elementary schools and two middle schools participated in this family literacy event.

BPS took ODOB to a new level by reaching into the community. Bentonville celebrated the opening of its own world renowned art museum, Crystal Bridges, last fall. BPS were able to tie in the themes from Mrs. Malone's book with this fabulous community addition. Many BPS students visited Crystal Bridges as a first time observer of an art museum, and the importance of this experience was reinforced through our ODOB choice. A few families reported traveling to Chicago over Spring Break to visit the Art Institute, making a huge impact on its families. In addition, the local public library sponsored the program with home school families. Sue Ann Pekel, children's librarian, partnered with Wendy Hannah of Apple Glen Elementary to present this successful ODOB program at the Arkansas Reading Conference in Little Rock, and it will be repeated at the Arkansas Library Association Conference this Fall. As a culminating ODOB celebration author Marion Malone visited all participating schools and the Bentonville Barnes & Noble, which hosted a book signing one Saturday morning.

This is a hard act to follow, but plans are already underway to read *The Fairy Tale Detectives* by Michael Buckley, the first book from the Sisters Grimm series. Can't wait to hear about THAT one!!!

* Read To Them Bookstore *

\$4.00

Dominic
Frindle
The World According to Humphrey
The Lemonade War
The Enormous Egg
Love That Dog,
Hate That Cat
The Mouse and the Motorcycle
Heartbeat
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie
Robinson

Visit the RTT Bookstore at
<http://bit.ly/Vl5tyc>

\$4.50

The Trumpet of the Swan
The BFG
The Witches
Shiloh
My Side of the Mountain
A Cricket in Times Square
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of
NIMH
Mr. Poppers Penguins
Island of the Blue Dolphins
The Lion, The Witch, & the
Wardrobe
A Long Way from Chicago

Titles in Spanish:

A Cricket in Times Square- \$4.50
Charlotte's Web - \$5.00
The Lion, The Witch & the
Wardrobe - \$5.50
The Mouse and the Motorcycle- \$4.00



Support Materials for
titles available at:
<http://bit.ly/Vl5tyc>
(click titles to sample
book resources)

\$5.00

Charlotte's Web
Because of Winn Dixie
The Indian in the Cupboard
The Miraculous Journey of
Edward Tulane
Bud, Not Buddy
The Phantom Tollbooth

\$8.50

A Barrel of Laughs, A Vale of Tears

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great savings!