

Reading ASSIST® Institute April 2011 Tutor Newsletter

Student Gold Medal Eligibility

The Reach for the Gold Chart can be used as a motivator for our students and our tutors as well! The gold medal represented on the top right of the chart is an award given to students when they complete the entire Reach for the Gold Chart OR they are no longer in need of a reading intervention with the focus on phonemic awareness and phonics. The Gold Medal can be presented to a student anytime during the school year if they have met the criteria. (With early intervention many of our students learn the skills they need to be successful readers without completion of the chart.) However, this award must be approved in advance by the Volunteer Program Manager. Team leaders should consult with the student's teacher or school liaison before recommending a student for the Gold Medal.

Student names for Gold Medal consideration during this school year must be submitted to Sue McGrath, smgrath@readingassist.org, 425-4080 ext. 15 **by May 3, 2011**. Include all information on the checklist below:

___ student's name

___ school attended

___ grade

___ whether a volunteer or TSP student

___ names of all tutors who have worked with the student

___ reason for their eligibility

(Have they completed the Reach for the Gold Chart or are they no longer in need of a reading intervention.)

The Student Party will be held on May 19, 2011 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, DE. Attendees who have earned their Gold Medal will receive it during the event. However, tutors may request a Gold Medal for presentation to their students who cannot attend the party.

Advanced RAPS Intervention Training, Levels 4 – 6

Don't overlook this opportunity to learn the upper levels of RAPS. (RAPS Intervention Training levels 1-3 is a prerequisite).

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 in the Wilmington Office and Thursday, April 21 in the Milford Office from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Please contact Jeanne DiChiara, jeanned@readingassist.org, (302) 425-4080 to register.

Advance registration is required.

Student Report Cards

As of this school year Reading ASSIST Institute will no longer be sending student report cards to the parents of children in the volunteer tutoring program. A one page sheet featuring the Reach for the Gold Chart with student information and a cover letter will still be provided to the school and to the Reading ASSIST Wilmington office for the students' files. This will give an objective snapshot of what was covered during the school year. Team Leaders will be receiving a copy of the shortened report form soon. Even though this information will no longer be reported directly to parents from RAI it is still critical information necessary to document the Volunteer Tutoring Program interventions to several stakeholders and will be studied in conjunction with student testing results. Thank you in advance for completing this crucial document in a timely manner.

RAI 2011 Student Party – Dragon Day!

Dragon Day will be held on Thursday, **May 19, 2011** to celebrate our students and reward them for their hard work throughout the year. **ALL** elementary school students in a RAI tutoring program are invited to attend this fun evening of activities. (Kindergarten Intervention students are not included due to the capacity of the event venue.) Invitations have been mailed to tutors and students living in Kent and New Castle Counties. There will be a Gold Medal presentation to this year's recipients; however, this party is NOT just for Gold Medals winners. Please encourage your students to attend. Your help is needed to facilitate pre planned children's activities that evening such as the castle moat hunt, royalty relay race, create a dragon and face painting. If you can help please contact: Ellen Coulston at ellencoulston@comcast.net 798-4641.

Last Day of Tutoring

Many school schedules have changed due to the winter snowstorms and missed days of school. Team leaders - please check with the school liaison for testing schedules, the final pupil day, and a list of end of the school year activities which may affect the tutoring schedule. Some school districts will continue through the second week in June and tutoring can continue past Memorial Day. Lauren Riale will be contacting you regarding student reports. These are due in the RAI Office at least one week prior to the end of tutoring.

From the Office of the Lt. Governor

Lt. Governor Matt Denn was able to attend the RAI Appreciation Luncheon in Wilmington for a short time on April 8, 2011. He later expressed a desire to thank all of you more personally and was invited to utilize the RAI Tutor Newsletter as a vehicle to do so. Here are his comments.

Dear Reading ASSIST Volunteers:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to stop in at your annual award luncheon to thank you for the work you are doing in our schools.

I mentor two elementary school students in Newark, so I have seen firsthand the impact that personalized attention from an adult can mean to a child who is struggling with his or her schoolwork. I am extremely grateful for the fact that you are dedicating your time to our kids, and that you have chosen to receive the training to make sure that you get the most from the kids you help.

Thanks again to Marilyn and all of the great staff at Reading ASSIST for maintaining the program's high level of excellence. And thanks again to you for being on the front lines of our effort to ensure that each child in our state fulfills his potential.

National Volunteer Week

April 10 – 16, 2011 marks National Volunteer Week- Celebrating People in Action. The theme captures the meaning behind this signature week – honoring the individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities. The actions taken by Reading ASSIST Volunteers, whether it be writing a lesson plan for tomorrow's tutoring, demonstrating a hand signal for a short vowel sound, attending a Brush-Up class, or getting up and moving to go to tutoring on a day when it is preferable just to stay in bed, are actions that will change not only the future lives of the students you tutor, but the lives of generations to come.

Sue McGrath
Volunteer Program Manager
smcgrath@readingassist.org
(302) 425-4080 ext. 15