

Reading ASSIST[®] Institute May 2011 Tutor Newsletter



100 Men Reading Day

Brandywine Valley Friends has received a grant in partnership with RIF (Reading is Fundamental) and Macy's to host a series of Family Reading Celebrations and promote summer reading for students. What makes this personal is that Imani Henry, who is the main force behind this grant program, is a member of the RAI Family as a previous RAI student, and **is 10 years old!** Imani wanted to help other students who may struggle to read and co authored the grant to provide reading opportunities for children. The first reading event, **100 Men Reading Day**, will be held on **Wednesday, June 1, 2011** when 100 men will be reading to children in schools, day care centers, and other sites. The grant provides the books to be read which will then be donated to the site. There will be other summer reading opportunities but this one is for men only. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating please call (302) 420-1819 or email bvfriendsofthechildren@yahoo.com. We wish Imani great success and will be providing information regarding other upcoming Family Reading Celebrations.

Student Reports

Please remember that the RAI Student Reports are due in the office **a minimum** of one week prior to the end of the school year. I encourage you all to meet as a team for a final review of the year but with the new, objective, one-page format, it is not necessary to meet as a team to complete the student report. Please send all reports to lauren@readingassist.org. Please don't hesitate to contact Lauren or myself with any questions. A **Kindergarten Report** format has been emailed to the Kindergarten Team Leaders. Please be sure to submit the number of tutoring sessions for each kindergartener on your team.

Volunteer Tutor Survey

You will soon be receiving a Volunteer Tutor Survey to gather input and capture your thoughts regarding your tutoring experiences during the 2010/2011 school year. The Board of Directors requested that the survey remain relatively constant from year to year in order to more closely monitor trends. Even if you have completed this survey many times in years past, it is **important** that you **continue to respond**. Please help us better serve the needs of our students and tutors by completing the Volunteer Tutor Survey. Look for it in your inbox or mailbox soon.

Team Boxes

All team boxes should be returned to the Wilmington or Milford Reading ASSIST Office by June 30, 2011. (The Milford office is routinely staffed on Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am – 4 pm. It is advisable to call before coming to the Milford Office or if you need to drop off a team box at a different time.) Here is a quick checklist to review before returning the team box.

___ Complete inventory and compare to inventory sheet. Ask team members for any missing items.

___ Remove all items from the team box that belong to individual tutors. The **only** materials to be returned are those included in the team box inventory.

Team Notebooks

___ Leave the team tutoring hours report forms in the Team Notebook.

___ Remove lesson plans from the team notebook for the past year.

___ For **Elementary** RAPS students, leave a copy of the Student Report, Individual Assessments, and any summary sheets such as the report form for Sound Off Assessments and Fluency Drill Charts.

___ **Kindergarten** team notebooks should not contain any student information.

Unless you have a Handicap Parking Sticker please do not park in the handicap spots in the front of the Community Services building when dropping off team boxes. Thank you for your compliance in returning the team boxes with a completed inventory. The mystery of missing items are easier to sleuth out now rather than searching for them in the fall!

Celebrate Summer

Most volunteers take the summers to relax, refresh and rejuvenate. Occasionally volunteers wish to enhance their skills and gain more experience through summer tutoring. There are a limited number of students who receive summer tutoring through the Volunteer Tutoring Program. If you are interested in summer tutoring, please contact me.

In the summer months I will be reviewing student testing data, visiting with principals and reading specialists at many of our sites, recruiting volunteers and preparing for another school year, but I always enjoy hearing from our volunteers. Don't feel that you need an excuse to call!

The Most Regal of Royalty

When planning Dragon Day – the 2011 Student Party, the volunteer committee was unaware of the timely theme with the recent royal wedding. Our regal guests, both volunteers and students alike, donned their crowns for the event's festivities and students accumulated jewels as they moved from station to station. It also makes this essay by Erma Bombeck timely as well.

Being a Volunteer – A Noble Profession

by Erma Bombeck

I was a "thousand points of light" long before volunteerism lighted up the sky and had an official name. I had my lights short-circuited, burned at both ends and occasionally punched out. I hang in there because generally volunteerism is a dazzling galaxy of gems that streak across the sky and illuminate the world when it falters and cannot find its way.

I was thinking the other day that Americans are intrigued by royalty. Americans have never felt the need for a hierarchy who live in castles and get paid for waving and going to funerals, but I would like to propose a royal family for this country who would have no political power but would symbolize what we are all about and set the tone for our nation... the Royal Family of Volunteers.

You cannot be born to this royal family. You must earn your way through the ranks. Congress will not appropriate a salary for your efforts... Royalty as a rule is recognizable. The Royal Family of Volunteers...are often taken for granted, and only a fraction of them are recognized for their talents.

So how do you know you're royalty? Ah. . .it's the crown jewels that give you away-that sparkling tiara of smiles you have given and tears you have shared, and the rich legacy of caring.

There is not enough computing power in the world to calculate the value of the crown jewels accumulated by RAI Volunteers.

Sue McGrath

Volunteer Program Manager
Reading ASSIST Institute
(302) 425-4080
smcgrath@readingassist.org