



***Read-Aloud Virginia is dedicated to improving literacy and strengthening families
by encouraging parents to read aloud to their children every day.***

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- January 20 through February 20: Domino's Pizza cards \$10 each (20 - buy 1, get 1 FREE)
Contact: joaniebache@readaloudva.org
- February 18: BOWLING for BOOKS
AMF Sunset Bowl, 6540 West Broad Street, Richmond 23230
- February 23: RAV Board Meeting
Mio's Pizza, 8801 Three Chopt Road, Richmond 23229
- February 25
10:00 am – 5:00 pm KIDS EXPO at Richmond Raceway 23222
- March 2
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday! Have Dinner with RAV
Max & Erma's, 2160 John Rolfe Parkway, Richmond 23233
- April 1
9:00 am – 5:00 pm YARD SALE - Virginia Bazaar
Ladysmith, VA
- May 18 RAV Annual Board Meeting

If you'd like to have some fun and help with these events: Contact Joanie Bache at joaniebache@readaloudva.org or watch for emails from Joanie to see how you can help RAV spread the word about reading aloud to children.

NEWS FROM RAV

Home, sweet home for RAV! We have our first-ever RAV office, the scene of our November 2005 Board Meeting, and future scene of lots more events. We're in Suite 201, 8545 Patterson Avenue; Richmond, VA 23229 just east of Parham Road (east of Burger King). If you haven't visited the office yet, please come by.

Read Aloud to a Child Week a Huge Success: Congratulations to all the schools and supporters who made *Read Aloud to a Child Week* in October a huge success. Here's just one example of what parents and schools can accomplish: Jan Bates reports that Northumberland Elementary had 132 parent and volunteer readers, supplemented by Family Literacy Night that same week with over 250 parents and children attending from grades Pre-K through 2.

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Santa Breakfast joins *clean plate club*: Santa, Clifford and Einstein helped sell out four seatings for the RAV Santa Breakfast/Bazaar, with two additional seatings for walk-ins. We sold over 300 pancakes, along with books, and exceeded our goal of raising \$500 for literacy programs. A big thank you to everyone for working so hard to make this a special day for the children - and for giving us ideas for next year. We've already paved the way for next year's event by getting great community exposure on Channel 8 News at 6:00pm and 11:00 pm, and in the Henrico Citizen.

Crowd cheers RAV float! That's the report from the Christmas parade participants, where the kids from Pemberton Elementary waved, smiled and greeted the crowd for over two hours. Thanks to Mary Katherine and Brad for bringing and driving the float and to Travis, Michael and the kids from Godwin who did a wonderful job decorating.

Book Fairs at Waldenbooks: RAV hosted book fairs at Waldenbooks in Virginia Center Commons and Regency Mall in December. THANKS to everyone one helped with this event!

RAV Celebrates the Holiday Season with Applebee's: Einstein stood watch over Regency Square Mall from Applebee's restaurant during the month of December, thanks to art students and Sally Austin, their art teacher at Three Chopt E.S. and Pemberton E.S.

RAISE AWARENESS, RAISE FUNDS! RAV has launched some exciting new fundraising programs and have renewed some favorites

Bowl-A-Thon: On February 18, we'll be bowling and popping balloons for great prizes at AMF Sunset Bowl, building on the success of November's Bowl-A-Thon where we raised money and sponsors earned bowling time and exposure through banners and balloons.

Pampered Chef "on-line" show: RAV received a percentage of orders placed in November.

Domino's Pizza Cards: With a selling price of \$10 per card, RAV raises \$7 per card, with a generous offer of additional free cards thrown in by Domino's, we hope to raise \$1900. Take a look at this program at www.buyforcharity.com/PizzaCard.asp

Golden Gift from Ukrop's: When you register your Ukrop's UVC card and designate RAV as your chosen charity, you're enrolled in the new Golden Gift program at Ukrop's. You'll start earning funds for RAV every time you purchase an item from the Ukrop's family of brands.

GOOD LUCK, RA-USA, formerly "Read Aloud International": WHAT'S IN A NAME? Sometimes a name can mean a lot. *Read Aloud USA, Inc.* is the new name of the organization you've known as *Read Aloud International*. The new name reflects a shift in focus from promoting reading around the world to reading closer to home, in recognition of the fact that the needs, obstacles and programs that affect literacy can vary dramatically from country to country. The organization has decided that the best way to help "change the world" is to advocate for children in the United States, while continuing to collaborate with friends around the globe.

ADULTS READ. KIDS SUCCEED!

READ ALOUD FOR FUN

There's no better time to stay indoors, curled up with a good book and a loving adult, than during the chilly months of January and February. Serve some hot chocolate, and the twenty minutes of reading will become a life-long happy memory. *Book selections are for suggested listening "read-aloud" levels.* Remember to read books that are 2-to-3 years above what kids can easily read themselves.

Infants and Toddlers:

The Cake That Mack Ate, by Rose Robart

Books without words can be "read" to young children by pointing out parts of the pictures, and just telling the story as you would in conversation. Toddlers will mimic your voice and want to tell you the story themselves.

Preschoolers:

Wagon Wheels, by Barbara Brenner

An introduction to chapter books, this favorite of young boys involves three brothers braving storms, fires, and famine to reach their father's homestead in the rugged old western frontier. Warm values of family strength in this one!

Grades K-1:

Uncle Jed's Barbershop, by Margaree K. Mitchell

Uncle Jed has a dream that almost comes true many times – but is always crushed by a new crisis. Finally, his dream does come true, in this wonderful book that inspires young listeners.

Grades 2-3:

The Half-A-Moon Inn, by Paul Fleischman

Chills will thrill listeners as they try to solve this fantasy-adventure! Use different voices as you read for each character. Children will learn a wealth of new vocabulary and picturesque language as you discuss each fast-moving chapter.

Grades 4-5:

A Blue-Eyed Daisy, by Cynthia Rylant

An eleven-year-old girl experiences love, death, and family crisis as she begins to grow into a person you'd love to have as a relative! Lessons on life abound in this bittersweet short novel.

Grades 6-8:

When the Tripods Came, by John Christopher

Invaders from space take over earth and begin implanting brain-control devices among humans. Who better than a group of rebellious teens to destroy these dangerous aliens! Good story to promote responsibility for preservation of home.

Grades 9-12:

Wolf Riders: A Tale of Terror, by Avi

Breathtaking, plausible, non-stop reading for "reluctant-reader" teens. Race against death and the clock! (Caution: some expletives in text.)

A complete list of excellent READ ALOUDs can be found in the Treasury section of Jim Trelease's *READ ALOUD HANDBOOK*.

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PICTURE OF THE DAY, EVERY DAY

Tune in to Channel 6 Richmond (or channel 9 on Cable) every day at 6:15 am for the RAV book "picture of the day." These are pictures based on books and drawn by students who have listened to the books read aloud to them by parents. Students who have pictures shown on TV are given FREE Little Caesar's coupons from Channel 6. Congratulations to Carver, Northumberland, Fox, Pemberton, and New Beginning Child Development Center, Gaskins whose pictures have been featured on channel 6 so far this year. Thank you, Channel 6 and **Little Caesar's!**

THANK YOU!

RAV is grateful for the support of all our parents, teachers, administrators, librarians, volunteers and Board members. Thank you for bringing reading aloud to all the children of Virginia!

THANK YOU, SPONSORS. RAV depends on the generosity of a wide group of sponsors and supporters to keep us reading aloud to children throughout Virginia. With deep appreciation, we salute the sponsors of the 2004-2005 RAV year:

CBS Channel 6, WTVR
Northumberland Woman's Club
Barnes & Noble (Libbie Place, Short Pump)
Starbucks, Norfolk & Cary Street
United Way
Radio Disney, Richmond
Dominion Foundation
AMF Sunset Bowl
Waldenbooks
Domino Pizza

Imagine the Possibilities, Video
New Beginnings Child Development Center
Library of Virginia
Target
Virginia State PTA
Chick-fil-A
Max & Erma's
Tom Leonard's
Wal-Mart
COMCAST Local Edition

PLEASE JOIN US

RAV is a membership organization, and we encourage individuals and organizations from around Virginia to join us and become Read Aloud Virginia members or sponsors. Help take reading aloud to a new level of recognition. For membership information, go to the RAV web site: www.readaloudva.org or e-mail: joaniebache@readaloudva.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Read Aloud Virginia is a non-profit organization that is 100% dependent on financial support and volunteers from outside sources, mainly from folks like you. If you agree that our programs promoting reading aloud in homes and strengthening families are important to the minds, hearts and futures of our children, please consider volunteering and/or making a financial donation to *Read Aloud Virginia*. With your help we will continue to bring *Read Aloud Virginia* programs to more schools and reach even more children. Thank you!

www.readaloudva.org

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