



**GOOD NEWS! FROM
READ ALOUD VIRGINIA, INC.**

May, 2006

VOLUME III, Issue 6

Read Aloud Virginia is dedicated to improving literacy, developing a love of reading and strengthening families by encouraging parents to read aloud to their children every day.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

May 23, 24, 25

Scholastic Warehouse Clearance Book Fair
Hanover High School Library, 10307 Chamberlayne Road, Mechanicsville
Tuesday, 5/23, 7:30am - 6:30pm
Wednesday, 5/24 and Thursday, 5/25, 7:30am - 5:00pm

**June 17
10:30am**

Annual RAV Coordinators' Luncheon, honoring RAV school coordinators,
RAV school of the year and RAV volunteer of the year
Valentine Richmond History Center, 1015 East Clay Street
11:30 – 12:30: Lunch in the Valentine Garden
12:30 – 1:30pm: Monumental Church Court End Tour

*Please RSVP by June 12 to joaniebache@readaloudva.org
Lunch \$9. Tours Ticket \$7*

**July 20 – 21
10am to 2pm**

RAV Two-Day Workshop: Literacy and Family Reading
8545 Patterson Avenue, Suite 201, Richmond, VA
Please see page three for details.

NEWS FROM RAV

What's In a Name? (Part Two): "READ TO THEM" (RTT) is the new name of our companion organization formerly known as Read Aloud International, and more recently as Read Aloud USA. Born of necessity, the name change has been embraced enthusiastically for its clear message and straightforward call to adults to read to children. RAV will use the phrase in much of our communication as we continue to work with RTT in getting our shared message to parents and educators.

Congratulations and THANK YOU to Brian, Baylor, Mac & Mary Dickerson of Hanover County, winners of the **RAV Volunteer of the Year** award for 2005-06. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Brian organized book drives in almost all the elementary and middle schools in Hanover County. The Dickerson family coordinated the pick-up and distribution of thousands of books with the help of teen volunteers. RAV plans to establish 120 libraries in children's homes using the collected books, so that 120 more adults can *read to them*. RAV and the families are deeply grateful to The Dickersons, RAV's extraordinary volunteers of the year.

Continued...

READ TO THEM!

Byrd Middle School named RAV SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2006-07. With the support and inspiration of seventh-grade English teacher Mrs. Lisa Johnson and school librarian Mrs. Nancy Owen, students at Byrd shared their love of reading and books with elementary school children. The younger children loved the program and thrived in the presence of books and reading, especially as presented by “older” kids. Throughout the 2006-07 school year, Byrd Middle School's RAV program will be our school model. Congratulations and thank you, Byrd leaders and students for helping to spread literacy and the love of reading in Central Virginia!

We hope everyone involved in RAV will join us to honor Byrd Middle School at our annual Board Meeting on May 17 and at our Annual School Coordinator's Luncheon on June 17.

It's a STRIKE! for February's Bowling-for-Books event at Sunset Bowl. With enough bowlers to fill three lanes, the outing was a lively and tasty success. Bowlers included third graders and their teacher from Chimborazo Elementary School, five Henrico County Police DARE officers, five middle school students donating books, and a group of bystanders who wanted to join the group. After pizza, each of the elementary students received at least one free book to begin a home library, cementing their positive associations between fun and reading. Many thanks to Emroch and Kilduff, lane sponsor, and to Ward Marsteller for organizing this event for the kids from Chimborazo.

Dr. Seuss's Birthday party delivers 75 books to Richmond families. The line outside Max & Erma's Restaurant in the John Rolfe Shopping Center last March was so long that supporters had to wait 45 minutes for a table. (Thank you all for your patience!) In addition to donating wonderful books, 20% of the proceeds from the dinners were designated to help RAV spread throughout the metropolitan area . . . another example of our community's commitment to literacy. Thank you all!

Northumberland Demonstrates that Reading Aloud is Contagious. Under the tireless and enthusiastic direction of Jan Bates, Northumberland Elementary School's RAV program continues to grow, with March participation at an extraordinary 96%. The school saw 100% participation from students in grades pre-K through fourth who read *Grover Graham and Me* during their RAV “All School Listens” month. Key to the school's success is the enthusiastic support of Northumberland Elementary School's administration. The principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, and dean of students performed a hula on stage to celebrate the children's All School Listens achievement. A little incentive for the kids helped, too, as Subway offered free certificates for kids' meals for every child who turned in a listening book report.

Pemberton reaches 100% participation! In February, all students in grades K - 5 participated in Read Aloud Virginia and turned in a listening report. Credit goes to the teachers, parents, volunteers and student readers who helped Pemberton reach this lofty goal . . . after (only!) six years. (And, oh, yes, credit to our own Joanie Bache who has led the effort from the start.) Thank you, principal John Harding, for leading the way. Congratulations, Pemberton Penguins!

In any language, at any age, reading aloud is a family affair. For the first time, RAV participated this year in Adult Family Literacy Activity/Resource Fair run by the Adult Continuing Education division of the Chesterfield County Public Schools and also in the Mechanicsville Community Festival. RAV appreciates the partnership with community leaders who are working toward literacy for all Virginians.

Bed-time Stories, any time of day. Betsy Fogelsonger reports that her school's first Family Pajama Reading Night had an outstanding turnout of entire families. The evening began with storytellers and then families met in groups throughout the building to read aloud to their children. The children who could read also read to their families. Everyone had hot chocolate, wrote reflections on the evening, and planned to do it again! All in all, a wonderful, relaxing literacy evening for the price of \$10 worth of hot chocolate!

READ TO THEM!

DON'T MISS THE RAV TWO-DAY LITERACY AND FAMILY READING WORKSHOP IN JULY

This is a great chance for RAV members, supporters, and potential participants to refresh your understanding of the value and practice of reading aloud to children in the home, in day care, and in school. You will leave the workshop armed with what you need in order to initiate and maintain a family reading program for your school or day-care program or for your own home. You will be introduced to RAV models and will learn how to integrate them with your school's team and unique student/community needs. The training will delve into the philosophy of RAV using Jim Trelease's *Read Aloud Handbook*.

The workshop is suitable for pre-schools, day care centers, elementary, middle and high schools, and libraries. We welcome parents, teachers, librarians, administrators and volunteers. Remember to mark your calendar for **Thursday, July 20 and Friday, July 21**, from 10:00am to 2:00 pm both days. The workshop will be held at the RAV office, Suite 201, 8545 Patterson Avenue in Richmond 23229, just east of Burger King on Patterson at Parham Road.

The registration fee, a tax-deductible donation to Read Aloud Virginia, is \$50.

Please send your check to: RAV Treasurer, 1611 Pine Shadow Court, Richmond, VA 23238.

For more information or to register, contact joaniebache@readaloudva.org.

READ TO ANY GOOD KIDS LATELY?

Excerpt from an article that appeared in the April 2006 newsletter of VA Baby & Child Expo, a production of Baby Expos LLC.

In this day of technology, many parents are led to believe that computers and Baby Einstein videos can take the place of—and may even do a better job—than parents! Studies have shown that this is far from the truth! While computer games and videos may offer new skills to your child, they cannot take the place of reading in developing language and other critical linguistic skills.

Videos, and learning games, even those that are programmed for children to interact with them - can't and don't answer a child's own questions. They can only answer the questions that are programmed into them. As pre-schoolers learn more about the world that they live in, they have their own ideas and questions and they will turn to you for answers. Your answers will help develop your child's mental, emotional and moral education. The time you spend reading and discussing stories together will directly relate to the bond that you have with your child throughout your lifetime.

Listening to books read aloud encourages children to question, repeat, play with words and sounds, use their imaginations and exercise their thinking and interpersonal skills. Sharing and reading stories with your pre-schooler over and over again builds a wealth of 2,000,000 word/language experiences prior to Kindergarten! These background literacy experiences have been shown to be the number one factor to predict your child's chances of reading success!

It's never too early or too late to start reading to your child. Whether you start while your child is in the womb or after he/she's born, the key is to take the time each day to read to your child.

Tips for reading aloud from Read Aloud Virginia:

- Create a special time and place for reading aloud in your home every day.
- Choose a book that is fun and interesting for both you and your child.
- Choose a book that is at least 2-3 levels beyond your child's reading level. Children can listen and understand language at a higher level than they can read.
- Preview your read-aloud book to be sure it has action and emotional impact and that you are comfortable with the content.
- Be a ham! Read with expression and feeling - try different voices and sounds. Read slower or faster as the story changes.
- Talk about the story as you go along. Share your feelings and knowledge with your child.

START EARLY, FINISH STRONG: HOW TO HELP EVERY CHILD BECOME A READER

An article in the online publication of *Parents as Teachers* is a compelling and motivating look at the impact that reading aloud has on children, success, and family relationships. Citing the findings of physicians, educators and parents, the article is a reassuring source of support for all those who are dedicated to *reading to them*.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an international family education program for parents of children from birth through age 5.

This article appears at http://www.ed.gov/pubs/startearly/ch_1.html. Below are the first paragraphs:

Recent research into human brain development is proving that parents truly are their children's first teachers. What parents do, or don't do, has a lasting impact on their child's reading skill and literacy. For example, there is considerable evidence of a relationship between reading regularly to a child and that child's later reading achievement (National Research Council, 1998).

But many parents are not yet making the most of simple, vital opportunities to stimulate full and healthy child development in the early years, and by extension, good reading readiness. As U.S. Education Secretary Richard W. Riley has said, "If every child were read to daily from infancy, it would revolutionize education in this country!"

...Moreover, many pediatricians now believe that a child who has never held a book or listened to a story is not a fully healthy child (Klass, 1998). Given the course of brain development, it is not surprising that young children who are exposed to certain experiences usually prove to be good readers later. Just as a child develops language skills long before being able to speak, the child also develops literacy skills long before being able to read (National Research Council, 1998).

SAVE MONEY. SUPPORT LITERACY.

Be sure to visit the RAV on-line bookstore at <http://www.readaloud.net/>. You'll find great read-aloud books, most of them at discounted prices. And a portion of all proceeds goes to RAV to support our programs for literacy in central Virginia.

RAISE AWARENESS, RAISE FUNDS. Remember that there are lots of ways to support the work of RAV. Here of some of the ongoing efforts, supported by the generous organizations of our community:

Discounted books and partial proceeds to RAV: <http://www.readaloud.net/>

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. www.buyforcharity.com/PizzaCard.asp for more information or contact: joaniebache@readaloudva.org

Benevolink - 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 Benevolink - 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. Visit <http://www.benevolink.com> for further information and more opportunities to shop and donate to RAV.

READ TO THEM!

READ ALOUD FOR FUN

Even if you don't have a hammock, the lazy days of summer can be perfect for reading books and creating deep bonds between adults and children. Find the right spot, pour some lemonade, and watch the "twenty minutes of reading" turn into a lot more. *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:

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:

Angus and the Ducks, by Marjorie Flack

The timeless tale of Angus, a Scotch terrier who represents all inquisitive young children as they explore their surroundings.

Grades K-1:

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, by Judith Vorst

Poor Alexander has the worst day of all. Follow him as he goes through trauma from breakfast until bedtime. A comforting read-aloud story when your child's had a "very bad day"!

Grades 2-3:

A Day's Work, by Eve Bunting

When grandfather arrives from Mexico speaking no English, his grandson tries to help by telling a "small lie" that ends up causing them twice as much work. A story of truthfulness and the tender relationship between two generations and a frightening new land.

Grades 4-5:

The Bear's House, by Marilyn Sachs

A ten-year-old girl is faced with many challenges as her home life falls apart. The perfect vehicle for home discussions of values, disappointment, suffering and coping with peers at school. A wonderful way to enrich parent-child time.

Grades 6-8:

The Shrinking of Treehorn, by Florence Parry Heide

A young boy must solve problems by himself because his busy, social-climbing parents ignore his calls for help. A story to help parents and children reflect on life in middle school.

Grades 9-12:

My Brother Sam Is Dead, by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
Newbury winner, historical novel of the inhumanity of war during the American Revolution. A universal story – relevant to all generations, all wars, and all teens.

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

READ TO THEM!

CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN AND THEIR WORK

Tune in to Channel 6 Richmond (or channel 9 on Cable) every day between 6:10 and 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 their parents. Students who have pictures shown on TV are given FREE Little Caesar's coupons from Channel 6. Thank you, Channel 6 and **Little Caesar's!**

THANK YOU!

RAV appreciates 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.

This year we are especially grateful to the Comcast Reading Network and the Lipman Foundation for their generosity in supporting Read Aloud 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 2005-2006 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
Comcast Reading Network

Little Caesar's Pizza
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
Lipman Foundation
GRTC

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. 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 friends like you. If you agree that promoting reading aloud in homes, developing a love of reading 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

Read Aloud Virginia, Inc.
1611 Pine Shaddow Ct.
Richmond, VA 23238

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