



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.

**IT'S A BUSY TIME OF YEAR FOR RAV!
MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**September 21
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Board Meeting
Olive Garden (Broad & Glenside)
7113 W. Broad Street, 23294
804-672-6220

**October 4
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Ladies' Night Out! Fashion Show and BUNCO to benefit RAV
Richmond Country Club
12950 Patterson Avenue, 23238
Join us for desserts, cash bar, fine jewelry prizes and fun.
Contact Joanie at 285-0457 if you plan to attend.
Donation: \$28.50/person.

**October 5
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Books With Hooks
Reach Out and Read invites you for cocktails
Bluepoint Fish Club,
Short Pump Town Center, 11788 West Broad Street
Bring a book to donate to RORVA

October 15 – 22

READ ALOUD TO A CHILD WEEK
“Read to Them! It’s A Smart Beginning”
See below for details on this year’s plans and visit our website
www.readaloudva.org

December 2

Richmond Christmas Parade

December 3

Mechanicsville Christmas Parade

**December 9:
9:00 – 1:00 pm**

Holiday Bazaar & Children’s Breakfast
Comfort Inn, 3200 W. Broad Street
Donation: \$5/adult, \$15/child
Reservations: joaniebache@readaloudva.org or 804-285-0457

**December 16:
9:00 – 11:00 am**

Holiday Breakfast
Comfort Inn, 3200 W. Broad Street
We need sponsors, contacts for needy families and books
Contact joaniebache@readaloudva.org or 804-285-0457

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR. CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

It's fun to get involved, up close and personal, with kids and other RAV supporters. Here are some possibilities:

October 14
10:00 a.m. to noon

Children's Hospital/Children's Characters Race

December 9 & 16
9:00 a.m. to noon

Comfort Inn - Holiday Breakfast and Shopping

Days & Times to
fit your schedule

Read to children at North Richmond YMCA, Oak Grove Elementary,
East End Library and other locations

Please contact joaniebache@readaloudva.org or 627-2847 if you can help

A MESSAGE FROM RAV'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RAV will be changing a bit this year! I'm retiring from Pemberton to devote myself full time to working with schools and day care centers to motivate more teachers, librarians and parents to have one good daily read-aloud session, reading and discussing books that are two-to-three years above the reading/talking level of their children.

I hope to visit your schools to be a reader in your classrooms and to get pictures for Channel 6 TV. Please contact me right away, so that I can save a spot on my calendar to come read in your school this year! Call me at 627-2847 or email me at joaniebache@readaloudva.org

--Joanie Bache

POP-CULTURE PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO READ ALOUD

In the recent best-selling "Nanny Diaries," a tale of good and not-so-good parental behavior written by two young women making their way in New York City, the dedication reads:

**To our parents, for always reading at least one bedtime story (with voices)
no matter how tuckered out they were.**

The Nanny Diaries c 2002 Emma McLaughlin & Nicola Kraus, St. Martin's Press

READ TO THEM!

NEWS FROM RAV

New Partnerships for RAV: We've joined forces with several local organizations to reach more parents, teachers and librarians in our quest to boost reading aloud throughout Virginia. Please welcome Reach Out and Read Virginia (RORVA), GO READ, Children's Museum of Richmond and the READ Center. Look for more exciting events during Read Aloud to a Child Week and during our holiday celebrations.

RORVA's Executive Director, Elli Sparks, has lots of ideas for reaching parents through clinics, involving Governor and Mrs. Kaine, and making a big splash for our read-aloud programs. We'll keep you posted. If you aren't familiar with this wonderful organization, go to www.reachoutandread.org. They remind us, in the timeless wisdom of Strickland Gillilan, that reading aloud to children is a golden gift:

*"You may have tangible wealth untold,
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold,
Richer than I you can never be -
I had a mother who read to me."*

New Supporters for RAV: Many thanks to Philip Morris and Comcast for their generous donations. The Comcast grant will support our YMCA partnership.

Workshops: Many of our RAV members were busy sharing techniques and insights during the summer's workshops. People attended RAV's July workshop from all over Virginia, with librarians, volunteers, parents and day-care center workers. RAV participated in Governor Tim Kaine's Smart Beginnings event, where First Lady Ann Holten was the featured speaker.

ALL ABOUT "READ ALOUD TO A CHILD WEEK" **October 15 to 22**

Read To Them! It's a Smart Beginning!
A message from Joanie Bache

We are partnering with REACH OUT and READ, GO READ, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr., and possibly Governor Tim Kaine. This will allow us to spread our message of the value of adults and older children reading books aloud from appropriate higher levels to younger children from age 1 month to senior citizens.

Please help us by encouraging your school or organization to visit our website for pledge forms and completion certificates after the first of October.

You may want to do an all-school read where all the students read the same book. This year's selected community book from GO READ is *I Got Somebody in Staunton* by William Henry Lewis, a collection of stories that explore race, relationships, oppression and redemption. For younger readers we recommend companion books that support this theme:

High School:

The Color of Water
by James McBride

Charms for the Easy Life
by Kaye Gibbons

Professor's Daughter
by Emily Raboteau

Zig Zag
by Ellen Wittlinger

Middle School:

Bud, Not Buddy
by Christopher Paul Curtis

145th Street
by Walter Dean Myers

Code Talker
by Joseph Bruchac

Elementary School:

A Long Way from Chicago
by Richard Peck

The Hickory Chair
by Lisa Rowe Fraustino

Aunt Flossie's Hats
by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard

**Governor Kaine Supports Reading to Children
Through Smart Beginnings Initiative:**

Governor Timothy M. Kaine today launched the **Smart Beginnings** initiative, directing new and improved resources to families with children from birth to age five.

As part of the initiative, Governor Kaine unveiled the statewide **Smart Beginnings Blitz**, a series of more than 50 activities scheduled across Virginia between Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, highlighting the important role and responsibility of parents as their child's first teacher.

Many of these free community events will be hosted by local public libraries. In addition, a public education initiative will deliver messages regarding the correlation between high quality, early childhood education and a competitive workforce and ultimately a vital economy for the Commonwealth.

"The years from birth to age five are critical for developing the cognitive and social skills in children required for school achievement and eventual life success," Governor Kaine said. "I will lead Virginia towards a stronger, sustained commitment to a seamless continuum of child care and early childhood education that will not only benefit every child, but also our communities, our workforce and Virginia's economy."

After the formal remarks concluded, Governor Kaine read passages from the book *Goodnight Moon* to a group of children. A copy of the book is included in the Kit to encourage parents to read with their children.

Office of Governor Timothy M. Kaine, 2006

Reading to Young Children Improves Language and Cognitive Development

Summarized from The Society for Research in Child Development, Inc.

English-speaking mothers who begin reading to their children at a very early age have toddlers with greater language comprehension, larger, more expressive vocabularies and higher cognitive scores by the age of 2. Meanwhile, Spanish-speaking mothers who read to their children every day have 3-year-olds with greater language and cognitive development than those who aren't read to. These results, based on research from researchers at the universities of Nebraska-Lincoln, Iowa State, New York, Columbia and Harvard, and from Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., are published in the July/August issue of the journal *Child Development*.

The researchers chose their focus because while numerous studies have shown connections between parental reading to preschoolers and children's language development in low-income families, there has been surprisingly little research of low-income children below the age of 3. Yet this is a very important period for the language development required for later reading success. Researchers studied 2,581 families in the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project and a control group in 17 communities across the U.S. Within a subgroup of 1,101, they explored in-depth relations between reading and child outcomes for English- and Spanish-speaking families. The children were evaluated at ages 14, 24 and 36 months.

About half the mothers reported reading daily to their children at each age, although slightly more mothers read daily when their children were 2 and 3 than when they were 14 months. White mothers reported reading more frequently than mothers in other racial/ethnic groups, as did mothers of girls, firstborn children and children in the Early Head Start program.

In addition to the findings noted earlier, the researchers also found that reading and children's vocabulary seemed to enhance one another beginning as early as 14 months in English-speaking groups. In other words, the more mothers read, the better the children's vocabulary, which, in turn, encouraged more reading.

"Thus, we propose a snowball model in which reading and vocabulary lead to more language opportunities and competencies for children," said lead author Helen Raikes, Ph.D., professor of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "This study shows relations between reading to children and children's language and cognitive development begin very early and implies that parent-child bookreading and other language-oriented interventions for vulnerable children should begin much earlier than has generally been proposed."

The researchers also found that most children in the study, with the exception of non-English speaking children, had access to picture books. Thus, the team recommended that libraries, intervention programs and commercial vendors increase the availability of picture books with language and cultural themes of interest to non-English speaking families.

Summarized from *Child Development*, Vol. 77, Issue 4, Mother-child bookreading in low-income families: Correlates and outcomes during the first three years of life. By Raikes HH, Raikes HA (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Pan BA (Harvard), Luze G (Iowa State University), Tamis-LeMonda CS, Rodriguez ET (New York University), Brooks-Gunn J (Columbia University), Constantine J and Tarullo LB (Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.) Copyright 2006 The Society for Research in Child Development, Inc. All rights reserved.

READ TO THEM!

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 are 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.

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

READ TO THEM!

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!



**READ ALOUD VIRGINIA
MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS**

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

DUES (annually: June - May)

Previous RAV Members \$15 _____ amount enclosed

Previous RAV Volunteers \$15 _____ amount enclosed

New RAV Members \$20 _____ amount enclosed

New RAV Volunteers \$20 _____ amount enclosed

DONATION to RAV \$ _____ amount enclosed

Please make checks to: RAV
(please note: Membership/ Year)

Mail with check to:

RAV
8545 Patterson Avenue, Suite 201
Richmond, VA 23229

Thank you for supporting

**READ ALOUD VIRGINIA
READ to THEM**

RAV is a 501 (3) (c) non-profit, located at 8545 Patterson Avenue, Suite 201, Richmond, VA 23229

READ TO THEM!