



**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:

September 17: VA Baby & Child Expo - Richmond Convention Center

October 1-31: Wishing Well at Tom Leonard's Short Pump, with proceeds to RAV.

October 14: Pumpkin Sale at Tom Leonard's Market in Short Pump.

October 15: Kick-Off Event for Read Aloud To A Child Week

Byrd Theater, 2908 West Cary Street, Richmond. VA 23221

10:00 am: Bill Wellington, singer and poet performs - Pre & Elementary Schools

12 noon – 1:30 Q&A at Double T's for Teacher Credit

2:00 pm: Richmond Chief of Police Rodney Monroe

Training/Certificates for teen readers – Middle and High Schools

(College Students & Teachers, 5 hours Staff Development 10 AM – 4 PM. To register, please contact mbache@aol.com.)

**October 17-24: Read Aloud to a Child Week: "Please Read Me this Book."
Teen Read Week**

November 12: 11:00 am: Bowl-a-Thon: AMF Bowling, Broad Street, Richmond, across from Home Depot.

December 10: 8:00 am to 12 noon: Pancake Breakfast/Santa Workshop
Byrd M.S., 9400 Quioccasin Road, Richmond

These events need your support. Please consider offering your time, energy, and contributions. Contact Joanie Bache at mbache@aol.com or watch for emails from Joanie to see how you can help RAV spread the word about reading aloud to children.

WELCOME TO RAV! During the past year, five new elementary schools joined the RAV family: Baker, Donahoe and Ridge in Henrico; Reams in Chesterfield; and Sanville in Bassett. We look forward to hearing news from our new members. Welcome and good luck!

The RAV Board is delighted to welcome Julie Gray, Language Arts specialist for all of Henrico County. Julie brings vast professional experience and a deep commitment to reading aloud. Welcome, Julie!

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
United Way
Radio Disney, Richmond
Dominion Foundation

Imagine the Possibilities, Video
New Beginnings Child Development Center
Library of Virginia
Target
Virginia State PTA
Chick-fil-A

NEWS FROM RAV

Big Kids, Little Kids, Reading and Listening: During the summer, RAV trained fourth- and fifth-graders to read aloud to children from age four through third grade and to talk with them about characters, details, sequence and setting. After talking about the book and all that is in it, the older children are learning how to write up a listening report for each child. Thanks to Becca Mc Donough and John Lawrence, the training sessions were taped at New Beginnings Child Development Center on Gaskins Road and children's pictures were shown on Channel 6 CBS Morning News during July and August. The teachers at the Center are also learning how to do an RAV Read Aloud. Thanks, Amy James for inviting RAV to your Child Development Center.

Professional Development Academy: RAV member Sherry Edbauer's class for Reading Aloud was lauded by teachers and principals, recognized by a district superintendent, and extended to more sessions to meet the teachers' demands. It's not surprising that Sherry, Reading Specialist at Bethel Manor Elementary School, was nominated for Newport News Reading Council Reading Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Sherry!

June Book Fair a Huge Success! Thanks to our friends at Barnes & Noble, Libbie Place, RAV will receive \$2,748, a portion of the funds raised through RAV vouchers at the fair.

Read-Aloud Book Award Winners: The Curriculum Materials Center of the Livingston Lord Library, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, Minnesota has announced the 2005 Read-Aloud Book Awards. Try these books with your own young listeners.

Wanda Gag Book Award (ages birth to 8 years)

I Like Myself, by Karen Beaumont; illustrated by David Catrow. (Harcourt, Inc.)

Wanda Gag Honor Books (ages birth to 8 years):

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale written and illustrated by Mo Willems. (Hyperion Books for Children)

Kumak's Fish: A Tall Tale from the Far North written and illustrated by Michael Bania. (Alaska Northwest Books/Graphic Arts Center Publishing)

Comstock Book Award for 2005 (for ages 8-12)

Elena's Serenade written by Campbell Geeslin; illustrated by Ana Juan. (Anne Schwartz/Atheneum Books for Young Readers)

Comstock Honor Books for 2005 (for ages 8-12)

Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen written by Marissa Moss; illustrated by C.F. Payne. (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Mr. Maxwell's Mouse written by Frank Asch; illustrated by Devin Asch. (Kids Can Press)

TEACHER CREDITS PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT WITH READING SUCCESS

By JON W. GLASS, The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK — Only one of Dana Patton's fifth-graders failed to pass the reading portion of last year's Standards of Learning test in English. And that child, who began the year reading on a second-grade level, missed by one question. Patton, a teacher at Willard Model Elementary School, credits the success rate in part to something so basic that it's often taken for granted: parents reading books to their children. At least half of her students' parents regularly read and discussed books with them at home during the year. She's pushing for more this year. "With the SOLs, there's so much emphasis on take a test, take a test, that I think it's wonderful for students to just enjoy a book," said Patton, who sets aside daily class time to read to her students.

Willard is Virginia's reigning Read Aloud School, tapped by Read Aloud Virginia, a nonprofit family-literacy group. More than 85 percent of Willard's parents read to their children during the past year, said Pam Buchardt, Willard's communication skills specialist and known locally as the "queen" of Read Aloud. Buchardt is on a regional recruiting mission to get teachers and parents to read to their children, even if just for 10 to 20 minutes a day. "Video games and television have taken the place of books and the discussions parents used to have with their children," she said. "Too many kids today don't enjoy reading, and that's a shame."

Typically, Buchardt said, parents stop reading to their children once they reach school age, but continuing to read to them helps build vocabulary, listening skills and comprehension — all skills needed to succeed in school. "It's just as important to read to a preschooler as it is to a fifth-grader or a 13-year-old or a 17-year-old," she said. She recommends reading chapter books that are two or three grade levels above a child's current grade and to discuss the characters and themes of the stories.

For older students, she suggests looking in magazines or newspapers for topics of "high interest" to teenagers to engage them in conversation. "If my child were taking a government class, I would be reading articles to him/her about the presidential election and making connections from home to what they're learning in school," Buchardt said.

Gary Anderson, a school psychologist in the Richmond area, helped found Read Aloud Virginia. He currently works with juvenile offenders in Virginia's Department of Corrections. Most of the youth he encounters have poor reading skills, which contributed to problems at school and elsewhere. He is struck by the number who said their parents never read to them. "Those children who don't have the language skills, who don't understand what they're reading, they lose hope, they slide out," Anderson said. "It's the American tragedy."

When a parent once asked Albert Einstein what she could do to make her son smart, Anderson said, "He told her, read books, especially fairy tales, because that drives their imagination, and imagination is much more powerful than knowledge."

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ADULTS READ. KIDS SUCCEED!

USING PICTURE BOOK READ-ALOUDS TO BULLYPROOF THE CLASSROOM

by Susan Stern

Bullying happens every day, in every grade, in every school. Its forms include teasing, name-calling, gesturing, pushing, excluding, threatening and, more recently, cyberbullying using e-mails or text messages to spread degrading rumors about targeted students. Bullying is a hidden evil that leaves everyone paralyzed in its wake. Terrorized victims are hesitant to report it. Teachers may not recognize it in the midst of what appears to be simple tattling and playful "horsing around" among classmates. Innocent onlookers remain silent because they are afraid it will happen to them if they tell on the bully. One way to bully-proof the classroom is to use the powerful combination of picture book read-alouds and writers' notebooks.

Starting on the first day of school and continuing monthly, read a picture book about bullying aloud to the class (see list below). Before reading, ask students to predict the story by observing the cover and title. During reading, discuss what the characters should do, how they feel, and what makes them act in certain ways. After reading, ask each student to respond to the story by writing a letter in his or her writer's notebook. This notebook is read only by the teacher so it is a safe place to report bullying. It is important for teachers to read the letters quickly so they can take immediate steps to stop any bullying incidents. The process of reading aloud followed by confidential journaling will alert bullies that the teacher may become aware of their inappropriate actions and lets victims know that someone is going to help them.

Picture books evoke empathy for the victims and empower them by giving practical advice. For example, in the book, *Nobody Knew What To Do* by Becky Ray McCain, students watch helplessly as three boys taunt, threaten, and push a boy in school. Eventually, one of them courageously tells a trusted teacher. Similarly, in *My Secret Bully* by Trudy Ludwig, Monica finally turns to her mother for help when she is being emotionally bullied by another girl.

When used in this way, picture book read-alouds and writers' notebooks combine to become a dynamic duo in the prevention of bullying.

Susan Stern is a Reading Specialist in the Miller Place School District on Long Island, NY. She has co-authored a book of lessons, Let's Link Picture Books with Social Studies, for Fall 2005 publication with Humanics Learning. She teaches classes and workshops about using picture books. She can be reached at readbetter2000@aol.com

READ ALOUD VIRGINIA CREATES LEADERS AT BYRD

By Lisa Johnson, Byrd Elementary School

I love a great story, don't you? This is a great story!

Formula: 1. Take a group of seventh graders who are struggling. They are struggling with everything: grades, reading, fitting in, social skills, speaking correctly in public, succeeding.
2. Give them an opportunity to mentor to younger children in all the areas they are struggling.
3. Watch as their areas of struggle find relief, while they learn to help others.

This is exactly what Byrd reading students have had the opportunity to experience. They have become READ ALOUD teams for Pemberton Elementary School. In the process of preparation and execution of the program they have learned to function as a team, to lead a class, to share a good book with others and to support one another. Most importantly, they have learned to think about these younger children, as well as believe in themselves.

The value of books has increased in their eyes and so has the value of reading. They are beginning to understand the relationship between words, feelings, ideas and people. As they repeat the process they are claiming different parts of the responsibility and coming forth with their own ideas of how to make it better.

Cont'd.

Many adults have helped the students make this happen: principals, resource teachers, librarians, classroom teachers, parents. The story, however, is THEIRS! The students rose to the occasion. They practiced reading the book over and over so they would be ready for the little kids. They thought of comprehension questions that would be appropriate for the children's grade level. They learned how to lead the art activity and they practiced positive responses to answers that were wrong. They did the work; it is their success, their story. The adults just believed and provided the vehicle.

Don't you love a great story? I do! Especially ones with Happy Endings!

“LOUD, PROUD, UNABRIDGED.”

It seems that lots of folks are listening to books today. An article by Amy Harmon in *The New York Times* on May 26, 2005 described the surging market for audio books, a market that grown seven-fold in the past three years. Not surprising to RAV supporters, Harmon reported that some people say it was not until they started listening to books that they realized how much of the language they were skimming over in the books they read on paper.

Writing about her childhood experiences with listening to adults reading aloud, author Anita Diamant said, "We listened to stories before we read them. It takes you back to an earlier time in human history and an earlier time in your personal history, when people read books to you, and I think there's something really sweet about it and authentic."

The article precipitated passionate responses from readers, one whom wrote, "My most pleasant childhood memories are of my parents reading books to me. These experiences flooded my mind with visions and thoughts that enriched me. They caused me to be a voracious reader. The audio books bring back all these pleasant memories."

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS. READING ALOUD FOR LITERACY.

Through a partnership of scholars, educators and church volunteers, some of our region's poorest elementary school children are receiving the benefits of hearing books read aloud to them. At the Payne Elementary School in Washington, D.C, where more than 90 percent of the students live at or below the poverty level, a program has been created that brings volunteers from the Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, VA, to read aloud, assemble activity kits and make snacks for the students. Established by Adam Robertson, a member of Grace, the program uses the Literacy Initiative Grant program from the Phi Kappa Phi honor society "to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

In addition to more than fifty ongoing volunteers who read and support the Payne/Grace partnership, the program is boosted each semester when high school and junior high school students from Grace Youth Group use their day off to read to the students at Payne.

RAV salutes Grace Presbyterian Church, the administration and teachers at Payne Elementary School, Phi Kappa Phi, and all the volunteers and listeners who have worked together to prove that if "Adults read, kids succeed."

ADULTS READ. KIDS SUCCEED!

READ ALOUD FOR FUN

The fall season always seems like a new beginning, with the air full of the excitement of school, the first frost, the anticipation of holidays. It's a good time for families to plan new schedules with reading aloud a regular part of family life. Here's a list of read-aloud selections that will make those cozy evenings especially delightful. *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

Kitten's First Full Moon, Kevin Henkes
Lemons Are Not Red, Louise Vaccaro Seeger
Olivia's Opposites, Ian Falconer

Preschoolers

Giraffes Can't Dance, Giles Andreae
Cows in the Kitchen, June Crebbin
The Pigs' Picnic, Keiko Kasza

Grades K-1

Just Another Ordinary Day, Rod Clement
My Friend Bear, Jez Alborough
Wild About Books, Judy Sierra

Grades 2-3

George Washington's Teeth, Chandra & Comora
Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing, James Rumford
The People Could Fly, Virginia Hamilton

Grades 4-5

Al Capone Does My Shirts, G. Choldenko
More Perfect Than the Moon, Pat. MacLachlan
The Last Holiday Concert, Andrew Clements

Grades 6-8

Heartbeat, Sharon Creech
Kira-Kira, Cynthia Kadohata
The Sea of Trolls, Nancy Farmer

Grades 9-12

Bound, Donna Jo Napoli
Brian's Hunt, Gary Paulsen
Things Not Seen, Andrew Clements

Don't miss this book:

My Life in Dog Years, Gary Paulsen

Thanks to **Read Aloud America** in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the suggested titles. See more book lists at: www.readaloudamerica.org/booklist.htm.

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.

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. 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: mbache@aol.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Read Aloud Virginia is a non-profit organization that is 100% dependent on financial support from outside sources, mainly from folks like you. If you agree that our programs are important to the minds and futures of our children, please consider making a donation to Read Aloud Virginia. With your help we will continue to bring Read Aloud Virginia to more schools and reach even more children. You can send your check to the address below. Thank you.

www.readaloudva.org

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ADULTS READ. KIDS SUCCEED!