



**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

- October 9: Autumn Harvest Jubilee, 10am to 4pm, Farmers' Market, 17th Street, Richmond.
- October 16: 3R Summit, D. Wilder Middle School, Winkinson Road, Richmond.
- October 17 – 24: *Read Aloud to a Child Week of Celebrations. RAV Main Event!***
- October 23: Kids' Expo, 10am to 6pm, RIR Fairground pavilions.
- October 30: Community Fair, 10am to 2 pm, Maggie Walker Governor's School, Richmond.
- December 4: Ukrop's/Retail Merchants Association Christmas Parade, 9am to 12 noon.

“Read Aloud to a Child Week”: We hope you'll all join in for RAV's biggest week of the year, when we launch our major effort to get parents to read aloud to their children. This year's theme is “Hug Your Child's Mind.” We will be asking parents and other adults to pledge to read to their children from a short or long novel for 20 minutes every day or for 2 hours each weekend during the month of October. During the week of October 17, RAV will support each participating school, and will help with a celebration for the teachers, parents, and students who completed the "pledge" to read aloud to a child during the month.

RAV will support students, parents, and teachers at each participating school and public library as they turn in completed RAV Pledge Forms. Here's what RAV will offer: brochures with suggestions for books to read aloud to children; a parent letter; a poster depicting our theme, “Hug Your Child's Mind”; ideas for programs to celebrate the successful pledges; a Certificate of Completion; and a link on our website to submit their participation ideas and success stories. Visit the readaloudva.org web site after September 15 to download these materials.

We appreciate the support of our local public libraries, the Library of Virginia, our local school libraries, the Department of Education and Channel 6 anchors Reba Hollingsworth and Greg McQuade of the CBS *This Morning* Show for getting the word out. Special thanks to Radio Disney, WDZY in Richmond, for their offer to run PSA's and provide website coverage.

Falling For Books: The cozy days of fall are just around the corner, and it's the perfect time to settle in with a good book in hand and a child by your side. *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 to themselves. Here are some suggestions.

Infants & Toddlers

- Gossie* by Olivier Dunrea
- Whose Baby Am I?* by John Butler

Preschoolers

- Minerva Louise and the Red Truck* by Janet Morgan Stoeke
- Tough Boris* by Mem Fox

Kindergarten

- If You Take a Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff
- Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon

Grades 1-2

- Junie B. Jones* (series) by Barbara Park
- Martha Speaks* by Susan Meddaugh

Grades 3-4

- The Fish in Room 11* by Heather Dyer
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Grades 4-5

- Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days*
by Stephen Manes
- Rabble Starkey* by Lois Lowry

Grades 5-6

- The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo
- Stones in Water* by Donna Jo Napoli

Grades 7-8

- Crispin* by Avi
- Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer

Grade 9 & up

- The Same Stuff as Stars* by Katherine Paterson
- All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot

Hot tip: If you haven't read *Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg, do it now. This popular holiday children's book will be a movie in December, 2004. Best for Pre-kindergarten and up.

The most important twenty minutes of your day are reading aloud to your child.

Tips From Teachers: Maybeury Elementary's PTA in Richmond sponsored a Barnes & Noble "Book Fair Voucher Event," featuring Einstein the RAV mascot, guest readers in the store's Story Well, homework passes for students who attended, and free cookie coupons from Barnes & Noble. Vouchers were given out at school and the store, and all the students, family members and friends who used the vouchers were rewarded with great stories, new books, and \$3,000 for their PTA and RAV!

Sherry Edbauer from Bethel Manor Elementary School on Langley Air Force Base in York County used a pajama party/book fair that included parts of Jim Trelease's video to enlist new participants. They use graphs, competition between classes, and ice cream rewards to keep interest and participation high.

More Word Play: Remember that you don't have to wait for bedtime to "spread the words." Experts say that the skills that come from active listening improve receptive language and verbal facility in all children, forever. Try reciting rhymes as you ride in the car, at bath time, or waiting for the school bus. Here's a timeless bit of nonsense by Ogden Nash to get you started. It's from his famous poem about the misadventures of a girl named Isabel:

*Isabel met a troublesome doctor,
He punched and he poked till he really shocked her.
The doctor's talk was of coughs and chills
And the doctor's satchel bulged with pills.
The doctor said unto Isabel,
"Swallow this; it will make you well."
Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry,
Isabel didn't scream or scurry.
She took those pills from the pill concocter,
And Isabel calmly cured the doctor.*

--Ogden Nash

Congratulations to Willard Elementary School! Willard is the RAV School of the Year 2004-2005. The predominantly minority school had 95% to 100% daily participation, thanks to the school's drive to find a person to read aloud to each child. Congratulations to Willard and Pam Buchardt, RAV leader.

Welcome, Donahoe Elementary! Thanks to Lynette Metzger, there are three faculty members and two parent leaders ready to start work at our newest RAV school!

Message from Gary Anderson, RAV Executive Director. What an exciting time to be involved with the read-aloud movement! Around the state, support has been growing for our mission of getting people to read aloud to children, and we're working hard to make reading aloud a regular practice in every home, school, and childcare facility throughout Virginia.

RAV's goal is to expand from the fifteen schools that currently participate in RAV to 200 schools in the next two years, and from a single daycare center to 100 in the next two years. RAV is gathering information and listening to all who have been involved in spreading the word about the power and importance of reading aloud to children. We thank you for your involvement, and look forward to a future filled with read-aloud homes! Wishing you all a successful new school year,

Gary

Don't Forget the Pizza! Tune in to Channel 6 Richmond every day at 6:10 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 Pizza Hut coupons from Channel 6. Thank you, Channel 6 and *Pizza Hut!*

www.readaloudva.org

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