

# Literacy Log

PHILADELPHIA READS FALL 2006

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## Great Friend to Kids Award!

🌸 We have recently received notice that PHILADELPHIA READS is the recipient of this prestigious award for education from the Please Touch Museum. The award program will be held at 11:30 a.m. on November 16th at the Union League. This is quite an honor and we are humbled by all who nominated us and wrote letters of support.



If you are interested in attending, please contact our office at (215) 851-1748, so we can give you the needed information.

## Reading Tips!

🌸 Visit [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org) and check out RIF's Back-to-School Resources. Here you will find ideas to make reading more fun, ways to help motivate your child to read, and tips on finding the right books.

## To Give the Gift of Reading, WE NEED YOUR HELP!



🌸 The PHILADELPHIA READS Book Bank is open again. But to ensure that it stays open, we need your help. Last year, PHILADELPHIA READS

gave away close to 110,000 books for the purpose of supplementing classroom and community libraries. To do this again, we need individuals and businesses to donate new and gently used children's books.

If you have new or gently used children's books which are just laying on a book shelf in your home or packed away, give us a call and we will put the books back in circulation and in the worthy hands of a child who can truly benefit from your donation.

If you would like to host a book drive at your business, school,

or community organization, PHILADELPHIA READS can provide you with book collection bins and can pick-up the books.

PHILADELPHIA READS accepts new and gently used books for children in Preschool through 8th grade. Please do not donate adult books, magazines, encyclopedias or workbooks. We do accept new supplies such as notebooks, crayons and pencils.

For more information on organizing a book drive, please call Sarah Galbally at (215) 851-1845.

## From Adrienne's Desk

🌻 Here we are again at the start of a new school year! PHILADELPHIA READS is gearing up once more to support literacy on behalf of the City's children. Over the summer, our Summer READS program supported literacy, science, art and music at 53 summer camps in Philadelphia. This was possible due to grants from Annenberg, Connelly, Lincoln Financial, PNC, Comcast, Rohm and Haas, Wachovia, and the Philadelphia Phillies. During the summer, we piloted, at one Summer READS site, our literature based civic mission project that we developed in partnership with the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy and the National Constitution Center. We are really excited about STAR Force, Students Thinking and Acting Responsibly, and are looking forward to continuing the pilot in a few after school programs this fall.

Another exciting new project is "Culturally Speaking – I Can Read with My Child." This is an extension of the Family Literacy Workshops that we have been conducting for the past five years. Our goal for this project is to reach the bilingual population in our city. Often parents who do not speak English find it frustrating to have a shared literacy experience with their young children because they do not have access to children's books in their home language. This program will provide family literacy workshops and lending libraries in 8 different languages. With a small grant from Subaru, we will pilot this in one school for the 2006-2007 school year and then expand it as more funding becomes available. We will be working with the School District of Philadelphia to identify schools.

Lastly, PHILADELPHIA READS has a new look! Engine Room, an advertising firm in Philadelphia,

has generously donated their time and talent to develop a new PHILADELPHIA READS brand. In addition to developing a new logo, the firm has also designed tee-shirts, bags, book bin signs and more. We are very excited about starting the school year with a more child friendly image.

As we roll in to our 8th year, we look forward to continuing our Power Partner program, Parent Workshops, RIF distributions, Reading Coach program, Books to Home program, and the Free PHILADELPHIA READS Children's Book Bank. We want to thank everyone for their continued support of PHILADELPHIA READS and for helping the children of Philadelphia as they become great readers and successful students.



*Adrienne Jacoby*

Adrienne Jacoby, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

## Volunteers Needed!

🌻 PHILADELPHIA READS is currently looking for volunteers to work with struggling readers and writers at Philadelphia schools and after school programs. All volunteers must commit at least one hour a

week. Sites are located throughout the city. For information about training and to receive an information packet, please call us at (215) 851-1748. With your help, we will make Philadelphia a city of readers!



## *A Peek into Power Partners*



🌻 PHILADELPHIA READS welcomes our corporate and nonprofit

partners to another year of the Power Partners Program! For almost a decade, these dedicated mentors have volunteered their time and energy so that all children in the city will be successful readers and writers. Our Power Partners are an example of how diverse groups of adults use their special talents, literacy backgrounds, and dedication to volunteerism to impact the future of our children.

This year, over 1700 professional volunteers, representing 34 organizations, will work weekly on literacy development with 1200 students.

Once a week, 22 classrooms from Philadelphia elementary schools will visit their Power Partners for an hour of one-on-one mentoring, literacy enrichment, and career education.

This year, we welcome our newest partners, **Philadelphia Legal Assistance and Community Legal Services**. At last count, 50+ Reading Coaches have signed up for the opportunity to work with first grade students from McKinley School. They join the elite list of our returning partners who continue to demonstrate that small groups of caring people can change the world.

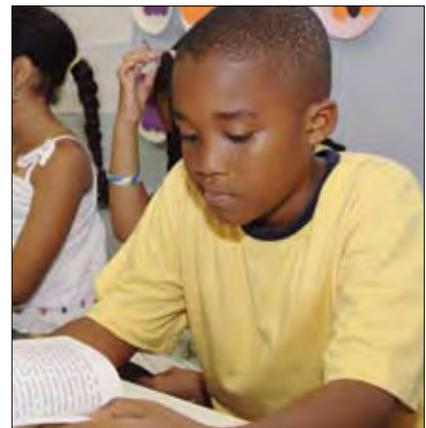
## *STAR Force!*

🌻 PHILADELPHIA READS supports the notion that Reading is Our First Freedom. To that end we wish to support students in becoming active members of their schools, communities and country. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy, PHILADELPHIA READS will be piloting an early intervention after school program for students in grades 1 to 6 as a violence prevention initiative, and as a means toward developing a disposition of living peacefully.

STAR Force, which inserts an academic component focused on building literacy skills and civic values, is being piloted this fall at four Education Works after school

programs. The program exposes students to children's books that build knowledge of, skills in, and a positive disposition towards becoming a good citizen.

Activities that accompany the book reinforce one or more of the "good citizen" categories. All activities, which range from having students debate to developing community service projects, were written by PHILADELPHIA READS educators and force students to think independently and creatively. The values taught during each lesson are reinforced throughout the week. PHILADELPHIA READS is really excited about this new program and is hoping to expand it to ten sites by the fall of 2007.



# Summer READS



## Summer READS 2006!

🌻 The Summer READS program just completed its eighth year of providing summer academic enrichment activities to approximately 2,900 children in Philadelphia via 19 Science, Writing, Art, Reading and Music (SWARM) Sites, and 34 Literacy Sites.

Through our unique partnerships with community-based organizations, communities of faith, the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, the School District of Philadelphia, Education Works, and the Free Library of Philadelphia, we were able to provide pre-existing camps with an academic enrichment component unlike any other in the city.

This year's theme of Native Americans, Native Animals, Butterflies, and Moths really had the children excited and motivated. SWARM programs combined thematic, cross curricular instruction in science, reading, writing and the

arts, while the literacy sites focused mainly on reading and writing. With help from the fabulous teachers at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art and Academy of Community Music, SWARM students learned to explore their ideas through the visual arts as well as how to play the recorder! Additionally, many sites incorporated theme related trips into their instruction. Popular destinations included the Camden Children's Garden, the National Constitution Center and the Mann Music Center. Even with all the hands on activities, the students attending Summer READS found time to independently read a total of 56,956 books!

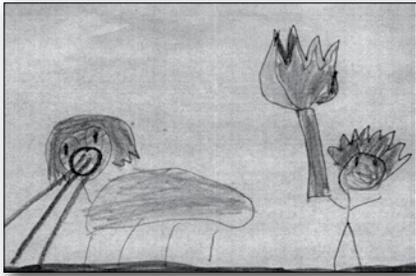
Although PHILADELPHIA READS could only directly serve 2,900 students we were able to distribute 6,404 RIF books to 3,202 campers. Each child received two books to take home to begin to build a personal home library.

*(continued on next page)*



See Inside for:

- \*Summer 2006 continued
- \*Writing and Art Samples
- \*Summer STAR Force



"The Shoshone men hunt wild animals" by Guy Gray



## Summer STAR Force: There ought to be a law...

Campers think of ways to improve their communities and the world:

If I were president for one day my law would be that everybody at every age could come to Africa to feed the hungry, poor, and abandoned. We would bring food, toys, health products, clothes, and medicine. I think that we should do this because other people are in need of serious help. We can all make a difference if we help other people because one day, that could be us in need of help.

-Aliyyah

I want to make my law no guns, knives or swords. I want that law because I want people to stop killing each other. I also want people to stop stabbing each other. I want people to throw away their guns, swords, and knives. People die every day because of guns. I hear gun shots around my driveway.

-Jaquana

If I were president for one day, my law would be I would make no more violence in the country and more love and care and more cleaners to help clean the streets. I would also make no more guns and more care. This country needs help and I would give it the help it needs. I would help the sick. I would help the homeless and I would give people the help they need.

-Bailey

## Summer at Camp Girard

🦋 This summer at Camp Girard the students learned so much. We had an excellent time learning the Native American Curriculum and making cool crafts. We read many books and worked on literacy skills. The RIF distributions brought BOOK PARTIES. We read, ate and shared our books.

The students really enjoyed learning about the life cycles of the butterfly and moth. The highlight of the summer was the recorder lessons and the students loved the songs that Miss Kelsey taught them. This summer we proved we love to read at Camp Girard!

### "Ladybug" by Ashley Zimmerman

Ladybugs have spots.  
Aphids are what they like to eat.  
Dots can be black, red, or orange.  
You can find them in a garden.  
By summer, they eat a lot of leaves.  
Under flowers, they like to hide.  
Grow little ladybug!

### "Likes and Dislikes" by Keith Perkins, Camp Butterfly

I like camp because we go on a lot of trips and we go swimming and we read books and we play games and play and clean up and I like activities and I like writing.



### "My Favorite Animal"

by Andre, EW Learning Center

The beaver is making a dam.  
The beaver is going to the pond.  
The beaver is going to the forest.  
The beaver is going to the city.

## Summer Writing Highlights!

Books feed your brain  
When you have nothing to do  
Take out a book and you would have smart brain too  
When I read books I feel smart already  
-Zymir Brunson, EW Camp Hero

Books are like friends  
It helps me learn to read words  
I can travel without leaving my house  
It's like taking a trip around the world  
-Brian Hughes, EW Camp Hero

## Summer READS 2006... (continued)

Lastly, we wrapped up the summer with our annual Summer READS Super Readers party. Hosted by the Philadelphia Phillies, two "Super Readers" from each site attend the July 25th game, had a meet and greet with Phillies short stop and Summer READS chairman, Jimmy Rollins, and received free goodie bags and dinner.

This year, the Summer READS program was made possible by support from the Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, Comcast Foundation, PNC Trust, Connely Foundation, Philadelphia Activities Fund, Rohm and Haas Foundation, Wachovia Foundation, and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Overall this year was a resounding success. PHILADELPHIA READS and its partners have already begun planning for an amazing Summer READS program next year, so stay tuned...

"Life Cycle" by Tatyana Rodinson,  
John G. Whittier School

First a little egg then it turns into a larva and goes on a tree. Then it turns into something called a pupa and then an adult butterfly.

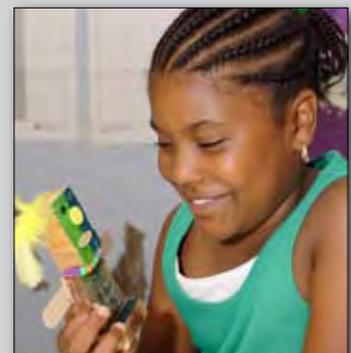
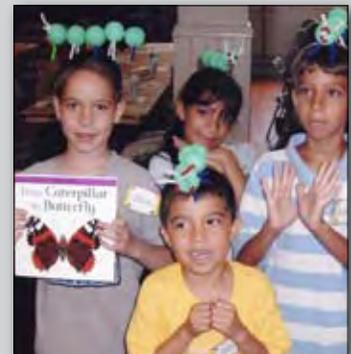
"Forced on a Reservation"  
by Issac, St. Hugh of Cluny

I am happy living on the wild open land. The animals are my friends. Strangers are taking my home away. My people have to move. I don't know why we can't share the land. I am not happy here! I can't run free. I can't hunt the lands with my people. I feel lost. I feel trapped, like a wild animal in a cage. I am not happy.



"My Dreams" by Alexis, Steel Elementary

When I grow up I want to be a dance teacher. I want to be a dance teacher because I like dancing. When I grow up I want to live in California because my grandma lives there and I miss her so much.



## Summer news from the IMHOTEP Charter School

🦋 This summer, our young minds were busy learning about the artistry of Ms. Betye Saar, whose exhibit they visited at PAFA. Music rang throughout the modules as these aspiring musicians enjoyed their three recorder lessons and sang

beautiful melodies. The RIF program that helps support our program was a hit at the camp. All of the children enjoyed choosing their own books to share with their families. Our study of moths and butterflies was exciting



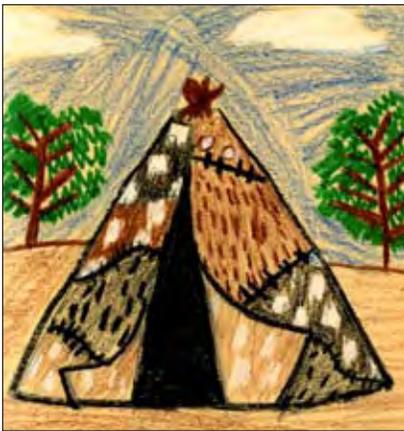
Roosevelt Playground children show off their illustrated stories.

and the children enjoyed reading the colorful books that were filled with facts. Our VENN Diagrams were beautiful and full of the information we learned. Most of all, the children enjoyed the integration of art into their daily reading, writing and science lessons. The painting projects were always a hit but if it involved cutting, pasting, glue, and feathers they were extra happy.



Samir Rutledge, Age 6, from *Where Did the First Americans Live?* "Adobe clay houses were built high on the sides and tops of cliffs in the desert."

## Summer Fun at Steel Elementary School



Justiss Smith, Age 7, "Tipis were made with animal skin and sticks."

🦋 This summer, the children enrolled in Education Works Camp at Steel School had a blast while learning all about Native Americans and Butterflies. The children read many books that helped them

understand the cultures of the different Native American tribes that once flourished across America. From the research, they decided to make a class book entitled, *Where Did the First Americans Live?* In it, the children described who lived in different environments. To build on what we were learning, the children created many crafts including Spirit Animal Mobiles, Native American paper dolls, Kachina Dolls, and dream catchers. They also performed in "Tipi Theater," in which the children demonstrated their knowledge of traditional Native American songs by singing to the rest of the camp before watching an informative Native American film. This summer flew by, and the

children are full of fun memories and lots of new knowledge, all of which will help them as they learn even more in the next school year.



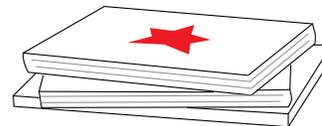
Najah Warren, Age 6, "Native Americans were the first people in America."

## Shop For A Cause Day benefits PHILADELPHIA READS!

🌸 On Saturday, September 16, 2006, Macy's hosted a national day of support for non profit organizations. PHILADELPHIA READS supporters who purchased tickets enjoyed store wide discounts, entertainment, and special events all day.

Proceeds generated from these ticket sales are going towards the purchase of books for distributions and classroom libraries.

Thank you for showing your support!



## A Special Thanks

🌸 PHILADELPHIA READS would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for donating books this past spring and summer. As a group, they collected more than 20,000 new and gently used children's books!

Arden Theatre Company, Beth David Reform Congregation, Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church, Blank Rome, B'nai B'rith, Brownie Troop #577, Copper Beech Elementary School, Courtney Jackson, Duane Morris, Eric Goldstein, Good Sheppard Church, Janice Longo, Marc and Elyse Satalof, Mikala Stewart, Overbrook Presbyterian Preschool, Philadelphia Phillies, Police Athletic League, School District of Philadelphia, SEPA SHR, Susan Brooks, Trish Woznicki, and the Urban League.



PHILADELPHIA READS helps to strengthen the literacy skills of Philadelphia's youngest and neediest school children. Together with individuals, schools, community and faith-based organizations, and businesses, PHILADELPHIA READS provides mentors, resources and advocacy for in-school, after school and summer programs.



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