



United Jewish Federation®  
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

*BETTER TOGETHER*

November 2017  
Reading Partners

Dear Reading Partner:

As Reading Partners embarks on its 19th year in the Stamford community, I am completing my third month as Director. Thanksgiving is right around the corner and I want to take a moment to express how thankful I am to all of you for the warm welcome I have received. I continue to be grateful each and every day for the expansion and enrichment of Reading Partners that Marlyn developed in her four years as Director. The devotion and dedication of the volunteers, and the excitement and joy of the children is palpable every time I step into one of the schools and see Reading Partners in action.



The year has gotten off to a wonderful start with a great cadre of new volunteers joining the ranks. In addition to our new volunteer training in September, we conducted two workshops for new and seasoned volunteers. At this point all of our team leaders have had their meetings at their schools and our volunteers have received their new assignments for the year. We are working in 12 elementary schools and the Creative Learning after school program at the Fish Church.

At the end of the month, some of the Team Leaders will be joining me for a special literacy training led by Stamford Public School administration in conjunction with the community wide Cradle to Career program of which Reading Partners is a member. I will be sure to report back with highlights in the next newsletter.

In general, I will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-1. To guarantee that I will be there at a specific time, it is always a good idea to call or email first. I do check email during the week on a daily basis, even if I am not in the office.

Please feel free to stop by for a visit. I love hearing how things are going and

any new ideas volunteers may have. I look forward to getting to know everyone (please bear with me as I work on remembering 100+ new names and faces) as the year progresses! I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday!

In gratitude for your commitment and dedication,  
Lenore Fogel

### Kickoff 2017 in Full Swing



Sarah Santasiero and Stacey Wood of Julia A. Stark Elementary School lead opening training for volunteers

On September 27th, Sarah Santasiero and Stacey Wood led our group of 38 new and seasoned volunteers in a literacy workshop to kick off the new year. Volunteers were engaged in ice breakers with each other that could also be used when working with the children.

Sarah performed a reading of the ever popular "That is Not a Good Idea", while modeling various reading techniques and skills! It was a fabulous demonstration that was enjoyed by all!

At the end of the training Sarah and Stacey answered questions and also left various games and information for the Reading Partners. If anyone was unable to attend and would still like a copy of the handout, I have them at the office.

### Workshop at Stillmeadow elementary



Luliana Roata, administrative intern and Jennifer Grant, reading specialist present to volunteers

Day two of our kickoff took place at Stillmeadow. Luliana and Jennifer defined early literacy skills, and explained how they are measured. The explanation was followed with many hands on activities to help the children develop these literacy skills. Multiple handouts with various ideas were distributed.

Following the workshop, the rest of our new cadre of volunteers stayed on to complete the Reading Partners' training and to learn where they would be placed and who their team leaders would be. In all 30 reading partners, new and old, enjoyed our second workshop and training of the year.

### Lord and Taylor Fundraiser

I want to thank Ena Sarkar for once again chairing the Lord and Taylor fundraiser for Reading Partners. To date, we have raised over \$700 for our program. We passed the minimum number of tickets needed to be sold, so we will also be receiving a percentage of the sales from the charity shopping day.

We would like to use some of these funds to restock our cabinets at the various schools with some needed fun new games and reading tools. I will be in touch with school liaisons and team leaders for suggestions and recommendations. Any reading partners who have requests or ideas , please contact me.

I do want to take a moment to remind everyone that this is strictly an optional fundraiser. Anyone who is uncomfortable participating, should feel no pressure to do so. Different people are comfortable with different things, and we respect that one hundred percent!

### Upcoming School Early Release and Holiday Dates

Wednesday Nov. 22 Early Release

Thursday Nov.23-26 Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday Nov. 29 Early Release

Wednesday Dec. 13 Early Release

Thursday Dec. 14 Early Release

Friday Dec. 15 Early Release

Friday Dec. 22 Early Release

Saturday Dec. 23- Monday Jan. 1- Winter Vacation

Jan. 2 School Resumes

Jan.15 MLK Day Vacation