



Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor
Reading Partners' Program

November 2018

Dear Reading Partners,

Fall is in the air, and Reading Partners are back in our schools and centers! It was wonderful to see so many of you at our September training with Natalie McClarty at the JCC and with Marci Marcus at Newfield elementary school. For anyone who was not able to attend and would like the information from either of our training sessions, it is available in my office for pick up.



I am delighted to say that 15 new volunteers have joined our corps this year! We are so excited to welcome them on board at Stillmeadow, Davenport, Newfield, Springdale, Westover, Northeast, Roxbury, Toquam, Hart and Stark. We are still hoping to add more volunteers at Rogers elementary and our Creative Learning after school program at the Fish Church. Many of our new volunteers have been recruited by current reading partners, so please keep up the EXCELLENT work!

Several of our long term volunteers have gone into at least temporary retirement. We wish them well and thank them for their years of service. Among them are: Jeanette Gromko, Jeanne Hirsch, Joseph Mittel, Johanna Nugteren, Marilyn Perkel, Michael Resnick, Janet Schneider and Gene Schwartz. We will miss you!

Looking outside our windows, we see the leaves are beginning to turn beautiful colors. It is a blessing to know that looking inside these windows our Reading Partners are working to help our students turn letters into words. Thank you for all of the color and the light that you are bringing into our children's worlds.

We have a nice selection of donated books for the taking at our UJF offices. Please feel free to stop in, choose some books for your sessions and say hello.

Enjoy the season and Happy Reading,
Lenore



Seasoned and New Volunteers enjoying the first workshop of 2018.

This September 46 Reading Partners joined us for our first workshop of the year. Natalie McClarty, M.ED, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, PreK-12 for Stamford Public Schools, led the session in her personable and energetic manner.

The presentation included different techniques and examples of literacy strategies that Reading Partners can implement in our half hour sessions. Natalie demonstrated various games and activities, and also shared a treasure chest of handouts.

Marci Marcus, reading specialist at Newfield elementary, was joined by 31 of our Reading Partners for her workshop on reading exercises that can be implemented in 30 minutes. Marci shared information about the Literacyhow Reading Method that is being implemented in many elementary schools in Stamford and demonstrated and modeled hands on games and activities for our students.

These sessions were a great way to get our year rolling with some fresh ideas. Stay tuned for our winter workshop announcement, and please feel free to suggest a speaker or topic of interest.



Ronny Kaplan's Newfield team gathers with school liaison Marci Marcus for student partner matches.

Throughout the months of September and October, our Reading Partners met at their various schools with their team leaders and school liaisons. Seasoned partners had a chance to reconnect with their teams. Our newest Reading Partners were able to meet their team and leaders, as well as meet school staff and tour the school buildings.

I would like to stress again that in this day and age, we cannot be too prepared. Please make sure that you know what to do and where to go in the event of any type of school emergency. Please also be sure to wear your id tags in the school, so that we are in compliance with school security protocols.

Last but not least, have a ball! And feel free to drop your team leaders and myself a note with any of the special or funny moments that make volunteering at Reading Partners such a joy!

Successful Sessions with your Reading Partner

Lois Dreyer has a Ph.D. in Applied Educational Psychology: Reading from Columbia University, and is Professor Emerita of Reading, Southern Connecticut State University. She has been a consultant to Reading Partners since the program first began in Stamford 20 years ago, and is currently a team leader at

both KT Murphy Elementary School and Roxbury Elementary School, where she also reads with children. Below Dr. Dreyer shares information about working with sight words in our sessions:

There is a great deal of emphasis in the early grades on teaching high-frequency words (words that occur frequently in print) as sight words, and with good reason. Only 13 words in the English language account for 25% of the words we will ever see in written material. Can you guess what those words are?*

A "sight" word is recognized rapidly and automatically without the need for decoding or "sounding out." It can be any word found in the student's reading material or a word that is important and meaningful to that student.

Some words to be taught as sight words may not follow the most common decoding patterns or spelling rules (for example the, to). After being decoded or otherwise recognized several times, a word generally becomes a sight word.

The Stamford Public Schools have shared with us the word lists for Grades K, 1, and 2. In classrooms, the words are read and written, practiced individually, and read in stories and books.

Some ways to practice during Reading Partners time:

1. Ask the student to point to the word on the printed page (as many times as the word appears), at first with help, and then independently. ("Can you find zoo?")
2. Writing a word letter by letter (while saying the letter names), and saying the whole word
3. Game format
"Concentration" or Sight Word Bingo

*The thirteen words:

(a, and, for, he, is, in, it, of, that, the, to, was, you)

School Fall Calander

Wednesday October 31- Early Release

Tuesday November 6- Election Day- No School

Monday November 12- Veteran's Day- No School

Wednesday November 21- Early Dismissal

Thursday November 22-25- Thanksgiving Vacation- No School

Wednesday November 28- Early Dismissal

