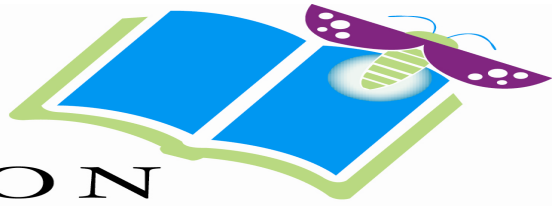


FIREFLY FOUNDATION

LIGHTING THE WAY TO LITERACY



Issue 1

Fall 2009

Special points of interest:

- Fundraising Event Highlights
- Board Member: Maryann Jacaruso
- Reading Aloud: Benefits for your child
- Thank you: Literacy Partners
- Up Coming Events
- Fun For Kids

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Firefly Foundation-1st Fundraising Event

Friday, October 2, 2009 Firefly Foundation held its 1st official fundraiser. It was an event partnered with Teresa LeDonne, a Chocolatier from Dove Chocolate. "There was a lot of planning that went into this event but it was all worth it in the end," Barbara DeLellis stated. The event was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Florham Park. There were over 60 who attended and each brought an age appropriate children's book to donate.



Over 140 books were collected from Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The event was arranged as a chocolate tasting intertwined with some of the history of chocolate. The attendees tasted brownie kabobs, chocolate covered blueberries, and white-chocolate raspberry dusted grapes. They also sampled Chai cool whip dip and sipped chocolate martinis. One attendee wrote on the Evite response, Chocolate and Literacy, what a great combination! Each attendee received a complimentary box of Dove chocolate covered almonds. With this successful evening, Firefly was able to raise awareness of the need to reinforce positive literacy experiences in the lives of children.

Giving Back Can Lead to Sweet Rewards

Recently, I was approached to collaborate with Firefly Foundation on a Dove chocolate fundraiser to benefit this newly formed organization. I was all for it, especially since I have a huge appreciation for books as well and also have volunteered on numerous book drives over the years. As I look back on the outcome of the event, I thought of a good friend of mine who always says "Competition is healthy but Collaboration is Powerful." Through collaboration I believe the event was very successful and we accomplished a great deal for a very important cause. I challenge everyone of you to think about how you collaborate with others to benefit society.

-Teresa LeDonne--Dove Chocolatier

Special Thank You to Our Literacy Partners

Allison Weideman	Doreen Chiriani	Kristen Markferding	Sherry Sablosky
Anne Giedlinski	Elaine Rillo	Linda Reed	Sue Myers
Anne Sweetin	Ellen McGrath	Maguy Frederick	Sylvie Brian-Charles
Anthony Tozzi	Gloria A. Chen	Maria Frederico	Tanya Jenkins-Cornell
April C. Bauknight King, ESQ	Janine Kane	Maria Tozzi & Family	Valerie Allevi
Arthur Meisler	Jessica Hiller	Mary Denis Smith	Victoria Raskin
Birdean R. Clinton	Jessica Yurecsko	Maryanne Jacaruso	Vivian & Dennis DeLellis
Bryn Shain	Jill Swirsky	Matt Kadosh	Zoie Zalewski
Christi Vidito	Joan Heydorn	Maureen & Karen O'Malley	Nury Messuti
Christina Wickham	Joanne DeVillo	Megan Chiriani	
Cindy Pitcher	Josephine Marrano	Melissa Gibson	
Cindy Silvestre	Judy Rogers	Molly Dorsman	
Claire Cunningham	Karen Hettrich	Monica Horn-Mitchem	
Dana Trapasso	Kathryn Ann Zisa	Patty Normand	
Debbie Inetta	Kathy Juliano	Ronald Michalewsky	
Debi Riska	Kim Howard	Rosemary Skeele	
DeLellis Family	Kim McNeil	Ryan Feret	
Dionne Taylor		Shelly Bauknight	

Monetary Donations

DeLellis Family	Norma & Al Del Sordi
Faith Moorehead & Family	Monica Horn-Mitchem
Judy & Bob Boudreau	Pam Reed
Karen Thomas	Tozzi Family
Maryanne & Len Jacaruso	

Gifts & other Donations

Bed Bath & Beyond	Florham Park Liquors
Boiling Springs Bank-F.P	Knights of Columbus-F.P.
Build -A-Bear	Knowledge Points -F.P.
Bruce Gandy	Michelle Brogan
www.web-designs-for-you.com	New York Jets
Florham Park Deli	Starbucks-F.P.

Board Member Bio: Maryanne Jacaruso

I have been a speech-language pathologist for over 25 years. I have worked with children in a variety of settings during my career, which have included the public schools, hospitals, outpatient rehabilitation facilities, early intervention within the home, and currently in a private school for special needs students. As a speech pathologist, I have been responsible for the evaluation and treatment of children evidencing difficulties in the areas of language (receptive/expressive), articulation, fluency, oral motor including feeding difficulties, voice, hearing, pragmatics, and auditory processing. I have provided parents and educators with the necessary information for the carry-over and reinforcement of a treatment

plan, which has assisted these children in communicating with others within their environment. I believe that reading skills are essential for children in enhancing their knowledge and overall communication skills throughout their development. This is particularly important during the early years of their lives, which will provide them with a strong base for learning throughout life.

I would like to mention a few ways in how to assist your child in reading. First, show delight and enthusiasm as you read. Use inflection in your voice. Never turn reading into a chore. Try to read each day if possible. Find a time when you are both relaxed and interested in reading.

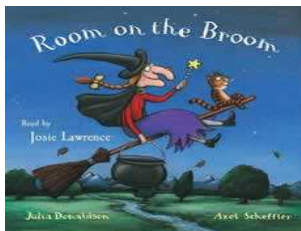
Point to the pictures as you talk about them. Let your child describe the pictures and tell you the story. Books should help to add new words to your child's vocabulary if possible. Stories should be for pleasure and fun, but include educational books too. Many schools or public libraries offer lists of books by age range and subject matter. Lastly, remember you are your child's best example. Let them see you make time for reading and enjoy this wonderful leisure activity too!

Up Coming Events

Oct. 30, 2009 7-8:30 Boo-Tastic Stories

Read Aloud session at Starbucks in Florham Park. Starbucks volunteers and the founder of Firefly Foundation will read spooky stories. Fun event for the whole family.

Ghoulish drinks and cookies will be served!



Nov. 25-Dec. 8 Give a Little, Help A Lot

Supply drive at Starbucks locations. The drive will collect items such as: stamps, Cannon 40 and 41 ink cartridges, standard white computer paper, 8 1/2 x 11 padded mailing envelopes, and new books for ages 1-17. The following stores will be a part of this fundraising drive: Florham Park, Madison, Roseland, West Caldwell, Willowbrook Mall, Rt. 23 Wayne, Short Hills, Preakness Mall, William Paterson College Hamburg Tpk.

Dec. 10, 2009 Holiday Literacy Event

Starbucks volunteers will help support a holiday event at Marion P. Thomas Charter School, Newark, NJ to benefit the K-4 students. This event will have a variety of read aloud sessions, crafts, and door prizes. The event will encompass stories that focus on Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa celebrations.



Sponsor of Firefly Foundation

Book Drive-Barnes & Noble

November-January 2010

Barnes & Noble at the Livingston Mall will be holding a book drive.

The Firefly Foundation will be one of the charities that will benefit from the drive.

Firefly Foundation is thrilled to be a part of this book drive. There will be a suggested author list for those who wish to donate books. Spread the word about this wonderful opportunity to give back to children in need.



"Only those, who work hard can think of achieving something. Sitting idle or hoping for results without making any effort is nothing but foolishness." -Sam Veda-

Firefly Foundation

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www.fireflykidz.org

Tips: Reading Aloud

- Read to/with your child each night.
- Look at the cover of the book. Read the title, author, and illustrator's name. Ask your child to predict what might happen in the story.
- Look at all the pictures in the book. Ask your child to discuss what is happening in the pictures.
- Ask your child to identify the characters, setting, problem, and solution while you read.
- Take turns. Sometimes for struggling readers the text becomes overwhelming. Try alternating the pages; parent reads, then the child.
- Model how to show expression when you read.

Working With Words

Unscrambled each word below.

Title: **School**

koobag _____

lipcen _____

rdea _____

eat cher _____

stduy _____

caescilpen _____

oolsch _____

oobks _____

dentstu _____

comtuper _____

roomclass _____

chlun _____

plgrounday _____

Word Search

lion

turtle

elephant

spider monkey

hawk

iguana

alligator

rooster

peacock

owl

pigs

horses

parrot

I G U A N A R O T A A R
A H C S T N A H P E L E
S D R A Z I L I O N S T
E O O G G A L J P A H S
L K S W M E I I S C Y O
T C D A L R G L I E S O
R O O S A S A R K T H R
U C O F E M T N O O E R
T A F G I S O R S D E N
Y E K N O M R E D I P S
S P A S H A S O D C K F
E U K D P K T O H A W K