



Uniting needy Brevard County children with books and caring adults to promote a community of lifelong readers since 1997.

Fall 2011

THE ROLLING READER

We Are Starting Our Fourteenth Year!

Rolling Readers Space Coast, Inc., founded by Polly Cordell, Mary Eason and Joan Borders as a service project for the American Association of University Women, has reached out and connected with more than 73,750 Brevard County students, since its inception in 1997. The initial Read Aloud program started in six schools. Today, thirty schools participate in our Read Aloud program. Over the past several years, we have added Reading Skills and the Grade Level Reading Intervention Program (GRIP): both programs offer tutoring support for struggling at-risk second and third grade students. What makes our programs so successful? YOU...OUR SUPPORTERS and VOLUNTEERS. Through your effort, energy, compassion, donations, and *belief that literacy matters*, you have created a literacy movement that impacts and changes the lives of our community's youth.



Like children on the first day of school with new shoes and a big box of crayons, we too are excited about the start of a new school year. We look forward to talking with each of you as we all begin anew to make a difference for the boys and girls of Brevard...one book at a time.

TUTORS

Reading Skills and GRIP volunteers, we will contact you as soon as the schools have confirmed scheduled times and student selections. Some of our schools know at the start of the year which students will participate, while others wait until all new reading test scores have been evaluated. This often occurs around October. (*Look for additional information in this newsletter regarding tutors and fingerprinting.*)

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To Our Read Aloud Volunteers:

On August 10, the school bell will ring, signaling the beginning of a new year. We know you are eager to start reading and spending time with the children. As a returning volunteer, if you and your teacher arrange a day and time for Read Aloud, **please make sure to call or email our office and give us the school, teacher, grade, day and time.** This is very important for record keeping and assuring that we have a correct count when ordering our give-away books. There is nothing more sad than being told in April about a newly discovered class and all the books have been given out. If you pick up an additional class during the year, "great," but please notify the office. As soon as the schools send us their Read Aloud requests, we will be in touch with you to give you your assignment. Until then, enjoy your summer.

TIPS AND TIDBITS

Reading Skills Team

You made a difference! Your commitment and dedication to our One-On-One Reading Skills Program is greatly appreciated. We have received many positive evaluations of our program from School Site Coordinators and Teachers, who told us they saw literacy growth in their students. By using a formal curriculum of sequential, leveled reading materials, (12 Levels) and specific strategies to assist children with word attack and learning new vocabulary, our 2010-11 Reading Skills tutoring program helped 76 students on the road to becoming better readers. 69% completed Level 8 or higher. This is quite an achievement when you consider that students received only one hour extra assistance each week! Stay tuned for the start of our 2011-12 program. THANK YOU for all your effort!

G.R.I.P.

After reviewing the end-of-year surveys, we noted several schools that only allowed 30 minutes to complete the GRIP session. With classroom time becoming more rigid, we went back to the drawing board for GRIP. The program has been revised so that the weekly session is designed around a 30 minute timeframe. Optional instruction is also included, for schools where more time is allowed. If you are interested in a creative interactive way to tutor third grade students, please consider taking a look at this program. Everything is spelled out. You arrive at the school, review the curriculum for the day, meet with the small group of students and the educational fun begins. Watch as the children gain knowledge and confidence. Please note that this program does require fingerprinting.

Read Aloud

Last fall we highlighted a few literacy skills that we wanted you to emphasize during your read aloud sessions. Our end-of-year surveys came back from both volunteers and teachers and showed literacy skills were consistently woven into the Read Aloud program. Volunteers, thank you for incorporating these skills into your weekly sessions. We again urge you to address new vocabulary, introduce different literary genres, make note of sequencing in the story, ask questions to make sure the students are comprehending the story, have the children make predictions on what will happen next, and of course, encourage reading. Studies repeatedly show that the above skills help children to learn to read and that sadly many times children from low income households lag behind in these skills compared to children from middle and upper income households.



Facebook fan? If so, take time to check out our facebook page. Even if you are not a frequent user, we encourage you to visit our page. No, you won't find pictures of our families or read chats about what we had for dinner, but you will find links to interesting articles about reading to children, book selections for the young and not so young, and any other information that we think may interest our supporters and volunteers. From our viewpoint, it is an easy way to get out current and relevant Rolling Readers information without emailing everyone in our contact list. So please visit us. And again I promise, no family pictures.

Fingerprinting Money for Tutors

We have recently received grant money to reimburse our tutors **two thirds** of the cost of Brevard County Schools fingerprinting. The fingerprint and background requirement is based upon the Jessica Lunsford Act. Even if you have been fingerprinted somewhere else, the school board only recognizes fingerprints taken by them. The fingerprinting is good for 5 years and allows you to work with a child or children out of the sight of staff, and will allow you to go on field trips. Fingerprinting is done at the School Board building in Viera, Mon-Thurs. 8:00am-4:30pm. You must first be entered in V.I.P.S. Drivers License or some type of picture ID is required. The cost is \$52.25 by check or \$57.25 by credit card or money order. (No Cash) **All GRIP tutors must be fingerprinted.** If you are on a Reading Skills team that tutors *outside* of the classroom, you too must be fingerprinted, but we urge all to have this done. Funding for the reimbursement is limited. First come first serve.

Open an account at Community Credit Union and they will pay for your school board fingerprinting.

Call us for more details. 254-9976.

Welcome New Board Members

Rolling Readers is excited to introduce two new members to our Board of Directors. Our first new member is Carey Beam. Some of you may remember Carey as the program coordinator for Tutor/Mentor (2006-07). Carey, the Communications Specialist for Craig Technologies, continues to read for our program and supports us in many ways, including fundraising. We are thrilled to have Carey bring to the board her passion for and knowledge of Rolling Readers.

We are also excited to welcome Mark Broms to our board. He brings a rich background in business and education. He spent over twenty years with Ericsson Telecom in a variety of positions, including Executive Vice President and CFO. Mark, the former co-owner of Woodlake Child Development Center in Palm Bay, currently works with Huntington Learning Centers. A true book lover, Mark is also active with the Brevard County Library system.

We feel extremely fortunate to have both of these fine individuals join our board.



Do you give to the United Way?

We kindly ask you to consider listing Rolling Readers Space Coast as a recipient of a portion of your **United Way of Brevard** donations. United Way will handle all the work and will make sure your support dollars get to us. We thank you in advance for your giving.

LOOKING AHEAD

2011– 2012 School Year

Wednesday, Aug. 10	School starts
Monday Sept. 5	Holiday
Monday, Sept. 12	Holiday
Friday, Oct. 7	Holiday
Friday, Nov. 11	Holiday
Wednesday, Nov.23	Holiday
Thurs. & Fri., Nov.24-25	Thanksgiving
Wednesday, Dec. 21—Friday, Jan. 6	
2012	Winter Break
Monday, Jan. 9	School resumes
Friday, Feb. 3	Volunteer Celebration

Fall Volunteer Training Dates

Are you or someone you know Interested in becoming a Rolling Readers Volunteer? Training sessions for all three programs will be held in our Melbourne office:

1948 Pineapple Ave.

Thursday, Aug. 18 9:30am-12:00pm
Tuesday, Aug. 23 9:30am-12:00pm
Wednesday, Aug. 31 1:00pm-3:00pm

Barefoot Bay training at the Southland (Barefoot Bay) Library.

Wednesday, Aug, 17 10:00am-12:00pm

One-on-one training or group training will be scheduled at your request. Please call.

We welcome snow birds and students seeking service learning hours.

Please spread the word about Rolling Readers. Thank you for being our ambassadors.

Don't miss out!
www.rollingreadersspacecoast.com
 Keep informed about Rolling Readers news on our website and on facebook.
 Next Meet-Up Date: TBA

Rolling Readers Space Coast, Inc.
1948 Pineapple Avenue
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Current Resident



Volunteer Spotlight

Our spotlight shines brightly on all our donors. Many of you give of your time, others give financial donations. Support comes from boards that give money to us through grants. Still others sit on our board and guide our progress. Without each of these components, Rolling Readers would not be able to meet the community needs of our at-risk children.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to all of the following donors and grantors: Genevieve Arrington, Mary Eason, Marilyn and Marvin Tetenbaum, Joan Borders, Jan Larsen, Fran Hippler, Thomas Eason, Judith Graham, Harold Gold, J. Thompson, Holly Israel, Eau Gallie Rotary Club, GF Women's Club of Melbourne, American Association of University Women, The Prudential Foundation (CARES Volunteer Grant/ Don Lauer), Office Depot Foundation, and the Gannett Foundation.

A special thank you to the Gannett Foundation. We are the humble recipients of a Gannett Foundation grant, but we are also recipients of over 1000 books donated to Rolling Readers, which were distributed countywide this spring.

Thank You

Rolling Readers
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