

# TUTOR TALK

November 2007

## Musical Literacy Workshops

Last year some lucky STAIR children had the exhilarating experience of participating in a musical literacy workshop with New Orleans pianist Davis Rogan. Rogan's appearance at eight STAIR sites during February and March sought to help these New Orleans children develop a deeper appreciation for Mardi Gras by listening to traditional Mardi Gras music, reading and learning the song lyrics, singing along and learning about the great Mardi Gras composers and singers.

This year, beginning in November and continuing into the spring, Davis will appear at every STAIR site. The program will emphasize participatory songs with a literacy component as well as songs by Louis Armstrong and Fats Domino. STAIR tutors will not want to miss these lively enjoyable musical workshops and may want to drop by their site if Davis is appearing on a day they don't normally tutor.



**Pianist Davis Rogan and children at Parkway STAIR program have a magical musical experience.**

A New Orleans native, Davis teaches in the New Orleans Public Schools, is a band leader, a recording artist and is working on an upcoming HBO series about musicians in post Katrina New Orleans in which he will play one of the central characters.

Funding is provided by Rotary Clubs of Düsseldorf, Germany, New Orleans Musicians' Clinic, the Rotary Club of Carrollton, the Musicians' Union, and the Louisiana Public Health Institute.



Start The Adventure In Reading

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### Calendar

#### Thanksgiving Break

November 19–24

#### Christmas Break

Begins December 17

Return date varies  
by site.

Check with Site  
Director.

#### Martin Luther King Day – January 21

No STAIR

#### Mardi Gras Break

February 2– 8

No STAIR

### Davis Rogan Workshops

Monday, Nov. 12—McDonogh 15

Wednesday, Nov. 14—Dillard

Thursday, Nov. 15—Carrollton

Monday, Nov. 26—St. Paul's

Tuesday, Nov. 27—Capdau

Wednesday, Nov. 28—Woodland

Thursday, Nov. 29—Ben Franklin

### Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Break

November 19 - 24.

Enjoy a well-deserved vacation

# Reading with Strategies

## Taking a Picture Walk

Reading is a complex process, but there are different strategies that children can use to read a passage. These can help the children to get the words right as they read so that the text makes sense.

One important strategy we can show a child is to help him do a picture walk. We teach the child to discuss the pictures and make predictions before reading the text. This method works well with Level 1 and Level 2 books.

Looking at the picture first can help the child predict some words. When children first start reading, they only look at the initial letter of a word and then use the vocabulary

they know to guess the word. If the child has already identified a nest of baby birds in the picture, he is more likely to read correctly the words *bird* and *baby* when he sees them. After the child has read the passage, he should ask himself if it fits with what he thinks the picture is telling him.

## Other Strategies

A child should be aware if a word seems out of place and does not fit with the text. He should be encouraged to go back and read that word again. It may need several tries to figure out a difficult word.

Similarly, the child needs to be aware if the words in a passage sound right. Readers use their

prior knowledge of spoken language to check if what they read also makes sense when it is spoken. For example, beginning readers frequently confuse *was* and *saw*, but the child's prior knowledge should tell him which is correct in the text he's reading.

Children should be encouraged to look for parts of words they can read. Recognizing parts of a word helps them put the word together. For example if the child can pick out the *ing* at the end of a verb or the plural ending *es* at the end of a noun, it is easier for him to decode the rest of the word.

Children need to be taught these strategies and understand what it is they are doing which helps them to read.

## STAIR Activities Around New Orleans

### Fall Tutor Training Completed

A total of 201 new volunteers went through tutor training this fall bringing the total number of STAIR tutors to 333 at 23 different sites across Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish. Reflecting the strong sense of community prevalent in New Orleans today, more young adults in their twenties are tutoring



Two teachers and eight students from Louise McGehee School are current STAIR tutors, even though they have no community service requirement.

than ever before. Many twenty and thirty somethings make their first contact with STAIR through the internet. Over 10% of new tutors report learning about the program at [www.stairnola.org](http://www.stairnola.org) or sites such as Craig's List.

With a greater emphasis on community service in colleges and high schools, many more students are offering their time to STAIR. Students from Xavier, Tulane, Dillard and Loyola — long-time supporters of STAIR are volunteering in record numbers.

The New Orleans military community has become another valuable source of tutors. Both enlisted men and women and officers in the Navy and Marines based at on the east and west banks are tutoring at Belle Chasse, Hart, Nelson, Jefferson Presbyterian, and the newest STAIR site, Holy Angels Congregational Center on St. Claude.



Ready to Rumble—Michael Thompson, the Voice of the Hornets reads at the STAIR Book Fair at Barnes and Noble.



Ruth Bilbe stirs a cauldron of Mean Soup at Family Reading Workshop.