



STAIR

Start The Adventure In Reading



SERVING CHILDREN SINCE 1985

SUMMER 2007

STAIR Students Test Scores Show Improvement

STAIR pre- and post-tested its students using the Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Basic Skills tool. Here are the percentages of those students who scored at or above the 2nd grade level by the end of the school year:

- Word Recognition: 78%
- Oral Reading: 74%
- Listening Comprehension — Vocabulary: 95%
- Listening Comprehension — Story: 92%
- Reading Comprehension: 75%

In our 22-year history of service, STAIR has consistently seen these dramatic testing results at the end of each school year. In addition, there are many other encouraging outcomes that result from STAIR's program: the children's enhanced self-esteem, desire to excel, and an increased awareness of their own potential and the broad horizons enjoyed by those who can read and comprehend.



A proud STAIR student, his grandmother, sister, tutor and site director at the Woodland Presbyterian Church site graduation ceremony.

STAIR Program Prepares for the Fall School Year

Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR) is excited to have reached our 22nd anniversary, serving more than 4,700 young students from the greater New Orleans area.

Our successes in 2006-2007, the first complete school year post-Katrina, are evident:

STAIR operated 18 tutoring sites in Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes.

Our tutoring sites served nearly 200 academically at-risk second grade students from 20 public elementary schools.

Over three hundred volunteers put



STAIR's series of Family Reading Workshops included one at the Jefferson Presbyterian Church site led by Curriculum Specialist Penny Sproles.

aside Katrina-related concerns to provide one-on-one tutoring to second grade students in need of extra help in reading and language skills.

As we prepare for the 2007-2008 school year, we plan to serve more than 250 children from 27 public elementary schools. In addition to its 18 sites, STAIR plans include: increasing our St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian site to 4 days; adding a new site at William Hart Elementary School in Gretna; and reopening former sites at Carrollton Church of Christ, Dillard University, and Hickory Knoll Church of Christ, each of which will serve a nearby elementary school.

Thanks for giving the gift of reading.

STAIR Thanks Retiring Board Members

As the 2006-2007 STAIR year draws to a close we thank those board members who have completed their terms of service: Ruth Bilbe, John Garoutte, MD and Seletha Nagin. In keeping with STAIR's literacy mission, each board member will be honored with a new children's book of his or her choice to be donated to a STAIR site.

Continuing as STAIR Board officers for the 2007-08 school year are Lee R. Adler, President; Bridget Carter, Vice President; Mary Lee Carver, Secretary; and Alison Decker Scott, Treasurer. At the Annual Meeting in June, STAIR will welcome new board member William Prieur.



Times-Picayune columnist Lolis Eric Elie read to students at STAIR's site celebration at the Tulane-Reilly Center tutoring site in March.

Sign Up for STAIR Info via E-mail

The STAIR e-mail list offers this newsletter and other information on what's new at STAIR. STAIR news is delivered directly to your email inbox. In order to sign up for our electronic mailing list, please visit the STAIR website at www.stairnola.org. Registration is free and you may subscribe or unsubscribe at any time.

STAIR Summer Workdays

Join us at one or more of STAIR's Summer Workdays and help prepare the materials we'll need for the next school year. Learn more about STAIR, exchange ideas about tutoring, and enjoy light refreshments! Come for the entire time or drop by for an hour or so. If you plan to attend any of the STAIR Summer Workdays, please RSVP to the STAIR office at 899-0820.

**June 12, 14, 26, July 10, 31,
1:00 - 4:00 pm**

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1545 State Street
New Orleans 70118

June 20, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church,
3810 Power Blvd., Metairie 70003

June 28, 1:00 - 4:00

Woodland Presbyterian Church,
5824 Berkley Dr., New Orleans 70131

July 14, 9:00 - 12 Noon

Berean Presbyterian Church, 1629
Simon Bolivar Avenue, New Orleans, LA

July 18, 1:00 - 4:00

Parkway Presbyterian Church, 6200
Camphor Street, Metairie, LA 70003

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“ My child is more confident with reading. His word recognition has increased and he is not afraid to be challenged. ”

~ STAIR Parent

STAIR Program Benefits from College & High School Tutors

Over the past two decades, STAIR tutors have come from a variety of backgrounds, including students from local universities and high schools who wish to instill a love of learning in younger children. Prior to Katrina, STAIR had on-campus tutoring sites with college students as tutors at Tulane University, Dillard

University, University of New Orleans and Southern University New Orleans.

As public elementary schools began to re-open in the fall of 2006, STAIR renewed its partnerships with those universities that were able to provide student tutors as well as tutoring space. During the 2006-07 school year, nearly 20 second



McGehee School tutors and their student at the STAIR site at Green Charter School.

graders from Banneker and Johnson Elementary Schools as well as Capdau UNO Charter School were tutored by college students enrolled in work-study programs at Tulane and UNO. Other Tulane students, including a Spanish speaking student, volunteered at several Uptown sites. Nine students from a single sorority at Dillard underwent their own training class. Xavier students tutored on Saturday mornings at Berean Presbyterian Church. This coming fall, STAIR will operate the Tulane and UNO sites as well as a new site at Dillard University that will serve a nearby elementary school. Additionally,

STAIR will reach out to all local universities offering its tutoring program as a work-study or service learning opportunity for college students.

Local high school students also tutored STAIR children as part of their service learning requirement during the past year. The Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church site serving A. C. Alexander second graders and St. Paul's United Methodist Church site serving Harahan Elementary School welcomed student tutors from St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie. At Green Charter School in New Orleans, Louise S. McGehee students acted as tutors. Students from Higgins High School came two afternoons a week to tutor children at Westwego Elementary School. The St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church site benefited from the services of a Lusher Charter School student.

STAIR Volunteers are the Best!

The volunteer spirit is alive and well at STAIR! Hurricane Katrina-related concerns couldn't keep away our volunteers who were eager to help STAIR in a variety of ways during the 2006-2007 school year. More than 300 members of the community from all walks of life donated 9,836 hours to STAIR over the course of the year. If you add up all of the hours worked by this dedicated group, tutors, testers, workday helpers, Board and Advisory Council members, the total monetary value would be \$223,325. STAIR would not exist without the priceless support of these volunteers from our community. THANK YOU!

This year as New Orleans residents rallied to support their community, the diversity among STAIR tutors was greater than ever. STAIR tutors were both retired and current public and private school teachers, college and university professors, newspaper reporters, librarians, construction contractors, attorneys and other law firm employees, realtors, ministers, financial and investment counselors, and florists. There were employees from area hospitals, hotels, and both nationally known and neighborhood restaurants.

One STAIR tutor is a co-owner of a ranch in Argentina where

polo ponies are trained for export to Great Britain. Another STAIR tutor, an artist, has been living abroad and exhibiting her work in several European cities. There was a musician with the Louisiana Philharmonic and an employee of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival Foundation. There were members of the United



Volunteer Committee Chairman Jim Howell and Development Committee Chairman Brandy Whisnant at STAIR's Volunteer Appreciation Party in April.

States Army and Navy, the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as local employees from the U. S. Departments of Veterans' Affairs, Agriculture, and Housing and Urban Development.



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SUMMER 2007

YOU'RE INVITED...

to be a Friend of STAIR. Just complete this form and mail it to the STAIR office, or visit our website at www.stairnola.org to make your gift online. It's just that easy! Your contribution to STAIR will give a child the gift of reading. As a Friend of STAIR you will be listed in our annual report and on our website. Please consider a gift today!

YES, I would like to be a Friend of STAIR!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card.
 VISA MasterCard Exp. Date: _____

Card No.: _____
 Name as on card: _____
 Signature: _____

My company will match gift (match form enclosed).
 I am interested in volunteering. Contact me.

\$1,000	STAIR Major Supporter
\$500	to Sponsor a Student for a year
\$250	to Sponsor a Student for a semester
\$150	to recruit and train a tutor
\$100	for curriculum materials for 10 students
\$50	for reading games for 10 students
\$25	for pencil and paper for 10 students
\$ _____	Any size gift is greatly appreciated.

Please make checks payable to Start The Adventure In Reading (STAIR)
STAIR, 1545 STATE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

THANK YOU FOR GIVING THE GIFT OF READING!