



# STAIR

Start The Adventure In Reading



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1985-2010

SPRING 2011

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## STAIR Presents "Kids' Day" with Alex Beard on Saturday, June 4

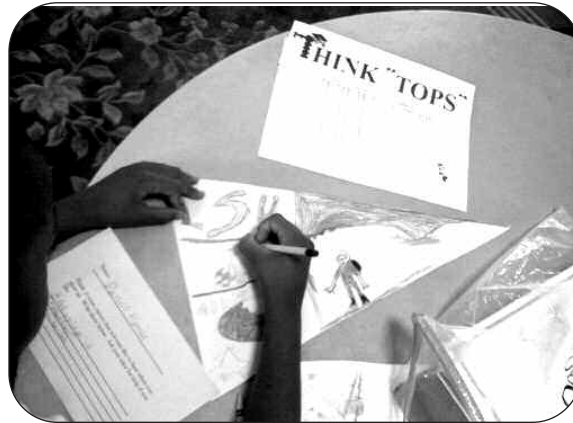
Children (and their parents) are invited to enjoy "Kids' Day" at the Alex Beard studio in the French Quarter on **Saturday, June 4, 10 AM - 12 Noon**. Come draw and paint with artist and children's book author Alex Beard known for his whimsical renderings of jungle animals. Listen as Alex reads from his books, *Monkey See, Monkey Draw* and *The Jungle Grapevine*.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be refreshments for the kids and a specialty cocktail for parents! Be sure to wear your favorite animal costume or print. See you there!

*Artist and children's book author Alex Beard at work*



## "College & Career Week" at STAIR Kicks Off



*Students from Esperanza Charter School show off the college pennants they made at the STAIR site at Carrollton Church of Christ.*

This spring, children and tutors at all STAIR sites are participating in "College & Career Week." During this time, students are being introduced to different areas of study they might choose to learn about at college and/or through training opportunities.

Students and their tutors have a great time discussing a variety of learning experiences. The emphasis is on studying hard, getting good grades and staying in school.

In addition to participating in "College & Career Week" activities, all

STAIR students take home a packet of TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program for Students) information for parents or guardians.

**National Volunteer Week is April 10 - 16, 2011.**

# Prime Time Family Reading Time Program in Jefferson Parish

Over the past several years, STAIR has conducted this 6-week Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities-funded program serving children and families from 3 Orleans Parish schools (Dibert Elementary School, Esperanza Charter School and Capdau UNO Charter School). STAIR is coordinating the Prime Time program Tuesday evenings serving children and families from Matas Elementary School in Jefferson Parish January 18-February

22. The weekly program is hosted by Parkway Presbyterian Church.



## Study Shows Effectiveness of Prime Time Family Reading Time Program

Recently, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities published the long-term impact study of PRIME TIME on at-risk children's educational progress, titled *Stemming the Tide of Intergenerational Illiteracy: A Ten-Year Impact Study of PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME®*. This 10-year study shows the unprecedented and sustained impact eight to ten years after a child graduates from PRIME TIME in virtually every grade

from third through high school.

There is statistical evidence, based on the analyses of the study, that students who participate in the PRIME TIME program during their early elementary years performed at a higher level on grade-level content areas of LEAP, iLEAP, and GEE. Students who participated had mean performance scores and sub-scores that were consistently higher in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and high school.

## STAIR Book Logo Available in new India Stewart Pin



Need a gift for that special teacher, book club member, friend or relative? Why not support STAIR by purchasing one or more of the new STAIR pin developed especially for STAIR by local artist India Stewart. Available as a pin or pendant with black cord, the item is available for \$25. Contact the STAIR office for information on ordering, at 899-0820.

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# National Mentoring Month Celebrated in January

**S**TAIR joined other local organizations to honor those who serve children and youth by volunteering as mentors at a New Orleans Kids Partnership-sponsored event on Thursday, January 27, 6-8 PM at Café Hope in Marrero.

The event, which was free and open to the public, featured music by The Soul Rebels Brass Band (courtesy of the New Orleans Musicians Assistance Foundation), delicious food and drink, celebrity guests and door prizes.

In addition to STAIR, representatives from these NOKP mentoring organizations were on hand to provide information and answer questions about mentoring opportunities in the New Orleans area: Café Hope, Catholic Charities, Each One Save One, New Orleans Outreach, and Urban League's College Track.

Research has shown that volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence as well as boosting academic achievement. Mentors help to build young peo-

ple's character and confidence, expand their universe, and help them navigate a path to success.

Supporting local mentoring efforts is a key focus of The New Orleans Kids Partnership, a voluntary collaboration among those programs who serve, support, engage and empower children and youth in the Greater New Orleans area. Working together, NOKP partners develop, share, coordinate and leverage resources so that all children and youth reach their optimal potential.

## 1st Annual New Orleans Children's Book Festival Is a Big Hit!

**O**n Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., New Orleans First Lady Cheryl Landrieu and Ruby Bridges hosted the 1st Annual New Orleans Children's Book Festival on the grounds of the historic Latter Branch Library (5120 St. Charles Avenue). The event provided attending children and parents with a unique opportunity to interact with exceptional writers and storytellers and to enjoy an inspiring variety of book-related activities, exhibitions, and demonstrations. STAIR, with the help of site director Lillian Samardzija, joined various community-based agencies offering participants resources for continued education, tutoring, and literacy programming.



## STAIR Tutor Workshop Focuses on the "Distractible" Child

**O**n November 12, nearly 30 STAIR tutors participated in a workshop that provided them with strategies on working with children who need to be more focused on learning at STAIR. STAIR Curriculum Specialist Penny Sproles provided information and answered questions from tutors. STAIR will offer its tutors a spring workshop featuring a panel discussion by STAIR site directors. They will discuss practical applications and best practices for STAIR.

## STAIR Students Rewarded for Attendance

**R**esearch has shown that children who attend afterschool programs on a regular basis also are more interested in staying in school. Starting this school year, STAIR is rewarding those students with the best attendance at STAIR each semester. Those children who qualify receive a bag full of books to go home as well as game tickets for the whole family from the New Orleans Hornets. STAIR and the Hornets are working together to encourage students to attend school and ultimately increase their chances for success in and out of the classroom.



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# 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](http://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
\$750	to Sponsor a Student for a year
\$375	to Sponsor a Student for a semester
\$250	to help provide bus transportation
\$150	to recruit and train a tutor
\$100	to provide curriculum materials for 10 students
\$50	for reading games 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!**