



STAIR

Start The Adventure In Reading



SERVING CHILDREN SINCE 1985

SUMMER 2009

STAIR Program Evaluations Demonstrate Continued Success of Reading Tutors

In the 2008-2009 school year, STAIR served 225 children from 33 public elementary schools at 26 tutoring sites in Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes.

To work one-on-one with these students, STAIR utilized more than 350 community volunteers who tutored, tested and assembled curriculum materials. Additionally, children were tutored by work-study and service-learning college students from Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, Dillard University, Loyola University and Xavier University. Local high schools also provided student tutors who needed to complete service hours. Those schools included St. Martin's, Chapelle, Helen Cox, McGehee and Warren Easton.

Of the students tutored, **78%** were African-American, **12%** were Caucasian, **7%** were Hispanic, with **3%** not identified. There were **60%** boys and **40%** girls.

Testing and Evaluation

DIBELS testing: This is the second year STAIR has been relying on testing scores furnished by all of its participating schools who test the children using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). As in the past, fall and spring test scores from the DIBELS test are being used by the STAIR program to determine the success of its program.

While early testing results show that, as usual, STAIR students' reading scores have improved, some



Students from Ben Franklin Elementary School celebrate STAIR graduation with family and friends.

schools are still in session and not all scores are available. We expect to have the testing analysis completed by the end of June. We also will contact several of our schools to ask for DIBELS data on second-grade students who did not com-

plete the STAIR program. Hopefully, this will give STAIR an additional tool to demonstrate the effectiveness of our program.

Attendance: Attendance at STAIR's week-day tutoring sites averaged 77% during the 2008-2009

continued on page 2

2009-2010 School Year Includes New Schools and Partners

STAIR hopes to serve nearly 250 students from 30 schools at 29 sites in the fall. New weekday sites include those at Einstein Charter School and McDonogh #42 Elementary School where STAIR will be a partner of the Open World Family Services 21st Century Learning Center grant. At Tubman Elementary School, a new week-day STAIR site is included in Young Audiences 21st Century Learning Center at the school. The STAIR Saturday morning site serving Dibert Elementary School which was at Community Church Unitarian Universalist will be moved to the school so that more children can be served. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will once again host a STAIR Saturday morning site to be located at Chalstrom House.

Save the Date!
25th Anniversary STAIR Affair
Cocktail Party and Auction
March 25, 2010
7:00 pm until 9:30 pm
at the home of
Anne Montgomery and
Anne and Bill Grace
2525 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans

Thanks for giving the gift of reading.

STAIR Board Member Update

At its Annual Meeting in June, STAIR approved its 2009-2010 officers: **President Bridget Carter, Vice President Jim Howell, Secretary Frieda McGregor, and Treasurer Tina Brockmann.**

The board also welcomed new board members **Carroll Bernard, Lauren Geraghty, Kelly Harris-DeBerry, Tara Luparello, Sherri Zeller O'Bell, John Stockmeyer and Laura Symmes.**

Many thanks to those board members who are leaving the board this year: **Paul Atkinson, Don Beery, Mary Lee Carver, Louis Fishman, Alison Scott, Sidney Thornton and Jill Waid.** In keeping with STAIR's literacy mission, each board member was honored with a new children's book of his or her choice that will be donated to a STAIR site.

STAIR Acts to Improve Programming

Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, STAIR followed up on these recommendations from the 2008 curriculum evaluation and Board Retreat:

1) expand the tutoring program to serve others besides 2nd graders who need STAIR:

At selected sites, in addition to serving second graders, tutors began tutoring first graders as well as third graders who still needed the STAIR program. This plan worked well and plans are to continue the practice next year.

2) evaluate the current practice of 2 students being assisted by one tutor: Staff surveyed tutors and site directors at those pilot sites that mixed the mode of one tutor per child tutoring with two-on-one tutoring. While some tutors and staff reported two-on-one tutoring worked well, the majority of those surveyed stressed that STAIR is most successful as a one-on-one tutoring program since its curriculum is

geared to that.

3) provide small-group tutoring resources to staff and tutors. In the fall of 2009 STAIR will provide curriculum materials to site directors and tutors to help them more effectively teach reading to small groups (3 or more children).

Also, acting on a Board Retreat recommendation, STAIR has formed an ad-hoc Advocacy/Outreach Committee charged with forging strategic community partnerships and increasing visibility for STAIR. As a result, STAIR is re-vamping its **Advisory Council** to more actively engage members who may be able to provide advice on matters related to strategic direction, current issues and trends in education, as well as establishing better community relations. Council members are being asked to participate in the future by agreeing to a 2 year term and attending 2 meetings per year, beginning with the 2009 fall school year.

STAIR PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

continued from page 1

school year. High attendance and retention of children in after school programs has been positively associated with many academic and other outcomes.

Parent Evaluation: Of the STAIR parents surveyed, 100% reported that their children were much more interested in reading, 79% said that their children's reading skills have improved, and 75% said that helpful tutors made the difference.

Tutor Evaluation: Of the tutors surveyed, 99% said they felt their student's reading had improved since the beginning of the school year;



A lively group of Bethune Elementary School children show their appreciation for the STAIR program at the St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church site.

95% said that felt their student was more confident in his reading ability.

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Start The Adventure In Reading

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STAIR to Coordinate Bilingual Prime Time Family Reading Time

STAIR once again has received a grant to coordinate the **Prime Time Family Reading Time** program sponsored by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. For six Tuesday nights (Oct. 1- Nov. 5), STAIR will manage the bi-lingual version of Prime Time program of reading, discussion,

and storytelling for children and family members from **Esperanza Charter School**. A discussion leader and storyteller will conduct weekly book discussions and storytelling programs in both English and Spanish for children ages 6 to 10 and their parents. Pre-reading activities

are also provided for younger siblings. The event also includes a healthy dinner and free books for families to take home. STAIR coordinated the Prime Time program at Dibert Elementary School earlier this spring.

What they're saying about STAIR...

"We want to thank you for all you did for our students this year. The program has been wonderful and the children have made great progress. We were delighted to attend the graduation. The students were so proud. We look forward to next year."

Principal
Alice Birney Elementary School

"Best part: Seeing the child improve and have a chance for a successful life."

STAIR Tutor
Carrollton Church of Christ Site

STAIR Summer Workdays

Come to one or more of STAIR's Summer Workdays and help prepare the materials needed for the upcoming school year. Learn more about STAIR, exchange ideas about tutoring, and enjoy light refreshments! If you plan to attend any of the STAIR Summer Workdays, please RSVP to the STAIR office at 899-0820.

Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 – 3:00
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
6500 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan

Wednesday, June 24, 1:00 – 3:00
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
1545 State St., New Orleans, LA 70118

Tuesday, June 30, 1:00 – 3:00
Woodland Presbyterian Church
5824 Berkley Drive, New Orleans

Wednesday, July 8, 1:00 - 3:00
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
1545 State St., New Orleans, LA 70118

Wednesday, July 15, 1:00 - 3:00
Parkway Presbyterian Church
6200 Camphor Street, Metairie

Saturday, July 25, 1:00 - 3:00
Berean Presbyterian Church
1629 Simon Bolivar Avenue, New Orleans

Tuesday, July 28, 1:00-3:00
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church
1545 State St., New Orleans, LA 70118

STAIR Volunteer Appreciation Party, April 5 at Garden District Book Shop



STAIR Board members Lee Adler, Laura Symmes and Lauren Schug.



Board Secretary Frieda McGregor and STAIR President Bridget Carter



STAIR supporter Margaret Forbes Hulitsky and STAIR board member Cheryllyn Branche



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SUMMER 2009

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
\$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!