



STAIR

Start The Adventure In Reading



SERVING CHILDREN SINCE 1985

WINTER 2007

STAIR Program Offers Assistance to Children and Families

With new tutoring sites at Tulane University (serving Johnson Elementary School) and Drew Elementary School, the STAIR program continues to expand as additional schools re-open and more children and families move back into the New Orleans area. Currently, nearly 200 second graders from 22 public elementary schools are being tutored by 300+ trained volunteers and university work-study students at 18 tutoring locations in Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes.

STAIR tutoring sites are at the following locations:

Orleans Parish: Algiers United Methodist Church, Ben Franklin Elementary School, Berean Presbyterian Church, Capdau UNO Charter School, Drew Elementary School, S. J. Green Charter School, Lafayette Academy, McDonogh #15 School for the Creative Arts, Nelson UNO Charter School, St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, Tulane University - Reilly Center, Woodland Presbyterian Church; **Jefferson Parish:** Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Jefferson Presbyterian Church, Parkway Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and Westwego Elementary School; and **Plaquemines Parish:** Belle Chasse United Methodist Church.

During the school year, STAIR also continues to conduct its literacy pro-

gram, **Family Reading Workshops - Helping Children Read and Recover.** Approximately 75 students, parents, grandparents, siblings and tutors have



STAIR Site Celebration: Entergy New Orleans Executive Bridget Carter read to STAIR students at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School.

attended workshops held at STAIR sites at Tulane, Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Workshops are scheduled for STAIR sites at Berean Presbyterian Church and McDonogh #15 School for the Creative Arts in February and March.

Facilitated by STAIR Curriculum Specialist Penny Sproles, the Family Reading Workshops provide support for the families of our children by giving instruction and tools to assist them

continued on page 3

STAIR's 20th Anniversary Site Celebrations Feature Guest Readers

Delayed due to Hurricane Katrina, STAIR site celebrations began in earnest in the fall of 2006 and continue into the spring of 2007. Special guest readers from all walks of life visit STAIR sites, read to the children, talk about the importance of reading, and then enjoy birthday cake and refreshments with tutors, family members, school principals and teachers. Readers include Roop Raj, Terri Troncale, Bonnie Fastring, Jane Haas, Bridget Carter, Cindy Denson, Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Kim Boyle, Arnie Fielkow, Sherman Rogers, Ruth Bilbe, Lolis Eric Elie, John Gross, Maurice Ruffin, John Manning, Renae Conley and Irvin Mayfield. Every STAIR site will feature a Site Celebration before the end of the 2006-07 school year.



STAIR Site Celebration: City Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell read to STAIR second graders at Capdau UNO Charter School.

Thanks for giving the gift of reading.

STAIR Tutor Program to Receive Marketing Boost

STAIR has been selected by the Keating Magee advertising firm to receive a pro bono marketing consultation as part of the agency's 25-year anniversary celebration. Keating Magee will provide STAIR with assistance in marketing its children's literacy program to recruit new tutors and volunteers this summer and fall. STAIR looks forward to this great partnership!

Since September 2006, STAIR staff has tutor-trained 193 community members, many of whom contacted STAIR through the Internet. A number of the individuals visited STAIR's web site to sign up, while others heard about STAIR through the web sites of



STAIR Volunteer Director Elizabeth Artigues conducts a recent tutor training session.

Volunteer Central and Craig's List.

STAIR will honor its tutors and volunteers during National Volunteer Week April 15-22 with festivities at each site and a Volunteer Appreciation Party April 22.

New Orleans Pianist Davis Rogan Plays STAIR Tutoring Sites

With funding and assistance provided by the Rotary Clubs of Düsseldorf, Germany, New Orleans

STAIR is providing its students with a treat: a musical literacy workshop by local pianist Davis Rogan.



Musicians' Clinic, the Rotary Club of Carrollton, the Musicians' Union, and the Louisiana Public Health Institute,

Rogan's appearance at eight STAIR sites during February and March encourages the children to learn and appreciate the tradition of Mardi Gras by reading and learning the lyrics, singing along and receiving information on each of the great Mardi Gras song composers and singers. STAIR AmeriCorps member and local musician

Joshua Tifford is coordinating the program.

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continued from page 1

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STAIR Family Reading Workshop: Curriculum Specialist Penny Sproles led a shared reading presentation at the STAIR site at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

in helping their children achieve through reading and literacy skills. An integral part of this program is to introduce the families and children to age specific books that deal with adjusting to change and coping with adversity—a reflection of where so many of our children are today, post-Katrina. Children and family members are given dozens of free books, many of which have been donated to STAIR by churches, organizations, and individuals from all over the country post-Katrina. STAIR will continue to offer this series of workshops to STAIR students and their families over the course of the 2006-2007 school year.



STAIR Affiliate Site Visit: STAIR Executive Director Sara Woodard met with Anna James and Evelyn Puckett, representatives from the STAIR of Birmingham, AL affiliate, who were visiting the New Orleans area. STAIR, based in New Orleans, also has affiliate sites in Wilmington, DE; Annapolis, MD, Port Charlotte, FL; Lewisburg, WV; and Ruston and Mandeville, LA.



In December, every STAIR child received a new dictionary courtesy of The Selley Foundation and a new book provided by The Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans.



“Working with a child and seeing improvement is very rewarding to me. It gives me a good feeling to know that there are so many caring volunteers sincerely trying to help improve what I view as a reading crisis in our schools.”

~ STAIR Tutor



“It is a wonderful program. My child is now making B's and A's in reading.”

~ STAIR Parent



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WINTER 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: _____

- \$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.

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

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!