



Vermont Reading Partners

A Volunteer Literacy Program

Student-Tutor Newsletter, March 2011

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Pot Luck Holiday Party

If you were lucky enough to have attended Vermont Reading Partners Holiday Pot Luck Party in January, I'm sure you still remember the delicious food prepared by our wonderful volunteers and students. The McGinnis family, owners of the Barrows House Inn & Restaurant, angels in disguise, once again opened their dining rooms to VRP for their annual Pot Luck Party when we honor tutors and students. From donations from the Berkshire Bank Foundation and the Manchester Lions Club, a gift of a new reference book was given to each student. After dinner, book bags provided by a donation from the Vermont Country Store were distributed, and the young folks were directed to a table heaped with gently used books donated by members of our community. The table was soon depleted.

One of VRP's many purposes and joys is to put books into the hands of children to encourage them to build a home library of their very own. To this end, gently used books are available for the taking at each VRP event.

As they say in song, "what a swell party it was."

--Anon



New for Vermont Reading Partners! Look us up on Facebook!

Mark Your Calendars

Vermont Reading Partners Annual Summer Social / Fundraiser, Sunday, August 28th, at 6:00 p.m., Manchester Country Club. Hearty hors d'oeuvres, Dessert, Silent Auction, and music by the Equinox Consort. All are welcome. Invitations will be sent at a later date.

In the Winner's Circle

On February 13, Ethan Lima drove from Springfield, Vermont, to the Riley Rink to support members of the Vermont Law Enforcement Hockey Club in their match against the Green Mountain Boys, members of Riley Rink's adult hockey league. It was our 12th annual Reach Your Goal in Reading Fundraiser, a February tradition. The Green Mountain Boys won the match and Ethan won the Chuck-a-Puck contest; in between periods, he threw a puck closest to the center of the ice and won half the money collected from all the pucks sold. He then returned his half to Vermont Reading Partners as a donation. Thanks, Ethan.

We wish to thank teams, sponsors, and donors for supporting this great event: The Perfect Wife Restaurant sponsor of the ice time, Vermont News Guide, Stewart's Shops, Ted Hopkins & Sons, Vermont Law Enforcement Hockey Club, Green Mountain Boys, Al Ducci's



VRP volunteers Dick Bailey, Betsy Butler, Alice Gilborn, June Gutbier

Italian Pantry, Bistro Henry, The Aspen at Manchester, Dorset Union Store, Sonny's Blue Benn Diner, The Bank of Bennington, Express Copy, State Farm Insurance Companies, Manchester Pizza House, Dee's Electrical Service, Kilburn's Convenience Store, Mulligan's Pub & Restaurant, Finn & Stone, Inc., r k Miles, Inc., GSK Climate Control, Red Mountain Construction, People's United Bank, Briggs-Fowler Insurance Agency, Laney's Restaurant, Bob's Diner, Hand Motors, the East Dorset Jiffy Mart, *and those who worked at the Riley Rink Concession and donated their tips.* --June Gutbier



Ethan Lima presents his winning puck to VRP's Sarah Post.



Dr. Seuss Takes Center Stage at School Read-Ins

In recognition of Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2nd, area schools celebrated with Dr. Seuss parties and Read-Ins, when students, teachers, and parents came together to read silently or out loud for an hour or so. Here is a sampling of activities that took place at MEMS and Fisher Elementary School.



For over fifty years, this doctor continues to make house calls. This year Dr. Seuss books made an appearance to the “friends” in Ms. Dianna Scott’s pre-k program at Manchester Elementary Middle School.

Green Eggs and Ham remains one of the favorite titles uniting one generation with another. On Friday, March 4, through the **generosity of the Stratton Foundation and Vermont Reading Partners**, volunteer Marie Sossi presented *Green Eggs and Ham* as an enriched activity to the “friends.” As the book was re-read, the “friends” gleefully responded with the refrain, “No, I do not like Green Eggs and Ham!”

After listening to *Green Eggs and Ham*, the “friends” were invited to select a word card such as “...not in a house...” then they were asked to draw, as in this case, a picture of a house. Finally, the “friends” came together, as they held up their appropriate card in retelling *Green Eggs and Ham*. Finally, their strong choral voices overflowed into the hallway, “No, we do not like Green Eggs and Ham – not in a house, not with a mouse. We do not like them here or there. We do not like them....”



Throughout this school year, as Ms. Marie meets with the “friends,” they are encouraged to listen to a story, then place that story in their mind as they retell the story to a loved one.

--Marie Sossi



This year’s Read-In at MEMS started with an inspiring reading to the whole school of an excerpt from Dr. Seuss’s *Oh, The Places You’ll Go!* from Assistant Principal, Sarah Merrill. After that great kick-off, kids and adults could be found reading in every room in the building. First graders gathered in the Media Center along with some VRP tutors, parents, and a few older kids. Parents came into classrooms and cozied up to their children with a favorite book. Volunteers from the Manchester and Dorset Garden Clubs came to read to kids in classrooms about composting worms, a subject many students have been studying this year. Once again the Read-In was a wonderful way to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday and witness community members young and old share the experience of reading.

---Sarah Post



An Evening with "The Cat in the Hat"

On Tuesday, March 1, Fisher Elementary School in Arlington enjoyed a visit from one of Dr. Seuss's favorite characters, "The Cat in the Hat." As we entered the school, "The Cat in the Hat" greeted us and invited us to his party. Donna Bazyk, the Reading teacher at Fisher, coordinator of the Fisher School, Vermont Reading Partners Program, and a member of the VRP Board, dressed in character and voice and greeted all entering the school. We were directed by "The Cat in the Hat" to four different presentations.

The first presentation was a story, *Dewey the Library Cat*, read by a teacher. From there we entered another room where four students read a script of *Green Eggs and Ham*. Next, we were entertained by some students who presented a puppet show they created and adapted from a Dr. Seuss book. These students wrote the script, created the puppets, and were the puppeteers, as well. The last presentation was a story read by the school nurse, *Nancy the Nurse*, one of her favorite books. All listeners were given a paper nurse cap to wear.

These delightful presentations were followed by a slice of cake with the picture of "The Cat in the Hat" and juice. Needless to say, we all had a good time, and instead of one bedtime story that night, the children listened to four of them!

--Liz Luca

Vermont Reading Partners FREE BOOK SITES EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH TEENS

BROC
Community Action in Southern
Vermont
332 Orchard Street, Bennington

Sunrise Family Resource Center
Bennington

WIC-Women, Infants, and Children Nutri-
tion Program, Bennington

Winchester's, Pownal

Oak Hill Child Center, Pownal

Shaftsbury Country Store
Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury

Wayside Country Store
Rt. 313, Arlington

Stewart's Shops, Manchester

Nichols Store, Danby

Mach's Market, Pawlet

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Londonderry

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