

WORD

Family Resource Centers

A Program of WORD-Women's Opportunity and Resource Development

Newsletter

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

NOV 2005

Inside this Issue:

- Halloween Family Fun Night at Lewis and Clark
- Grants well spent
- A Note From The Director
- Trainer's Toolbox member training
- Listing of Family Resource Centers

For more information go to:
www.wordinc.org/frc

Graphics and Editing by:
Lindsey Rehder
Stories by:
Suzette Dussault
Pictures by:
Suzette Dussault &
Lindsey Rehder

A Night of Spooks

"The spooks were out tonight..." So begins the traditional tales of Halloween. And to be sure, there were ghosts and witches and goblins galore at the Lewis and Clark School Family Fun Night on October 28th. Ghostly goblin jack o' lanterns cast an eerie spell as they lit the paths through the school's outdoor nature learning center. Witches were sighted in the school's library as Lewis and Clark Librarian Erin Lipkind read Halloween books. Outside in the crisp dark fall night, Native American stories were told.

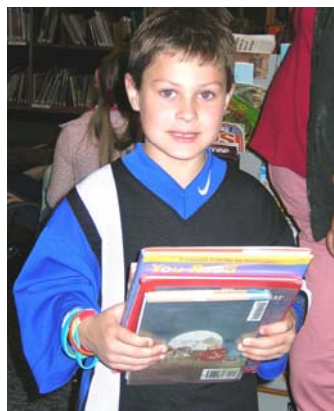
It was a night for stories and good books, purposefully designed to be so. Erin Lipkind has become an integral part of Lewis and Clark Family Resource Center events since she became the librarian a year ago. Because she wants the library to be the center of the school and also to promote reading with her families, she has discovered that partnering with Family Resource Center events is a natural. "I want to draw families into the library and



into reading together as a family. It makes sense then, to work together with the Family Resource Centers to coordinate events.

Working together we are able to bring more families into our school."

And it does. The school library overflowed with toddlers, students, parents and grandparents. "It is so neat to see this great multi-age group in the library," says Lipkind. "We have little brothers and sisters, older brothers and sisters who have gone on to Washington



but who love to come back for these events, parents, neighbors, and grandparents, all totally engaged in listening to a story."

First grader Zakery Scalise was thrilled to be there. He couldn't come last year, so he made sure that he and his mother were there this year. "It is so great to see all the kids

excited about books," said Hillary Scalise. "He loves the library and books." For Zakery, he could hardly wait to get home to read his armload of books. "I like to read a lot of books at one time," he said. "And tonight we get to check out as many books as we want!"

One grandparent, Rob Collier, continued the storytelling outside as he shared not only his heritage, but his ancestors' stories with (Continued on Page 3).

Family Resource Centers, a program of WORD, are a collaborative program between WORD and school districts and are funded by:
-Montana Office of Community Service
-The Engelhard Foundation
-Title I
-Early Learning Opportunities
-Washington Foundation

Well-Placed Dollars

As much as good intentions and good deeds can make a difference, it helps if that good work is seeded with a few well-placed dollars. Thanks to the generosity of Missoula County Public Schools Title I program, several local foundations and the national Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Foundation, the good work of WORD's RIF program in Missoula Family Resource Centers will be enhanced.



Jeanne Moon, WORD Family Resource Centers Program Director, was pleased to announce recently the awarding of three grants that will help strengthen WORD's RIF program that encourages children to read through book distributions. "We've worked hard, with few resources over the last five years to develop our RIF program," she explained, "and we realized we couldn't continue without more help. So we asked for financial help, and the response has been very encouraging."

WORD's RIF program is one of only 10 programs nation wide to receive an award from the Reading Is Fundamental Foundation and Coca-Cola. This one-time \$10,000 grant is designed to build volunteer capacity for WORD's RIF book distribution program in Missoula. The intent of the funding is to support innovative projects that can then serve as a model for other cities. According to Moon, "Volunteers are a very important part of any RIF program, and these funds will help develop our volunteer system and provide greater support for the good work our volunteers do."

Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation recently awarded WORD \$3,000 to purchase more and better-quality books and to increase the number of books going to young children most in need. For Mike Halligan, Executive Director of the Foundation, the grant made perfect sense: the RIF program meshes neatly with the philosophy of benefactors Dennis and Phyllis Washington: "They want to help those organizations that focus on education and literacy. Dennis and Phyllis want to help those families most in need, to help them move out of poverty," he explained. They believe education can do that. "We want to help children succeed in school." WORD is just one of many organizations across the state that seek funds from the foundation each year. The WORD program was chosen, he said, because it "is an organization that has specific, defined goals that we could measure, that serves a targeted population, and that is very capable of accomplishing those goals." To that end, additional books will be distributed to homeless children and teen parents who participate in WORD programs.



Thanks to their generosity and the support of the local Engelhard Foundation, MCPS, Target Stores, and others, the local RIF program is able to distribute over 5000 books to area children. "That," says Laura Pickett, program coordinator, "is the heart of what we do. We put high-quality, good books in children's hands. Books they get to keep. That's the key, often these are the only books that are their own. That's the good work we do. And through us, that's what people like the Washingtons can do. It's a good partnership."

Director's Notes



I just returned from a regional AmeriCorps "rule" meeting in Boise Idaho. The new rule — which supersedes prior provisions, regulations, grant provisions, and guidelines for administering AmeriCorps programs— took effect on September 6.

It is in response to Congressional direction to decrease the Federal share of program costs and to provide the AmeriCorps program with greater consistency and predictability. Program directors and commissioners from Montana, Washington, Idaho and Utah, met policy makers, directors and staff from the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) for training, conversation, and clarification on effects the new rule. For those of us directing AmeriCorps programs, our belts just got tighter, and competition stronger...again.

The dialogue encouraged me. There was a healthy amount of talking and listening by everyone involved. It's challenging to thrive, to move beyond survival, when financial resources are limited. The challenge was apparent on all levels. I listened as policy makers within CNCS reviewed the hard work and the participatory process that went into crafting the new rule. It was apparent that everyone valued the AmeriCorps track record of accomplishment in areas of education, public safety, the environment, and health and human needs. There is pride in AmeriCorps members' ethic of service, and the leadership skills they hone in service. Research shows that AmeriCorps members are more likely to maintain a commitment to their communities after their service has ended.

I've seen the fruits of this labor through the Literacy Support Corps and I know this track record is accurate. I've witnessed and benefited from the leadership AmeriCorps alumni bring to communities. Challenges, competition, limited financial resources... it's good work, done with good people and worth the effort it takes to navigate successfully.

-Jeanne Moon

Trainer's Toolbox

(National Training for Members)

For the first time, Western Montana Literacy Support Corps volunteers joined two other AmeriCorps teams for training and a Swearing-in Ceremony on October 14-16. Twenty Family Resource Center Coordinators and Team Leaders met with the thirty Technology Corps and Campus Corps volunteers for a Swearing-in Ceremony performed by University of Montana President and Commission on Community Service Chair, George Dennison, committing to a year of AmeriCorps service. This Swearing-In Ceremony was followed by a two-day training on the UM Campus October 15th and 16th.



The training, provided by Shannon Stober, Training Specialist with the Montana Office of Community Service and national AmeriCorps trainer Nicole Trimble of Seattle, focused on developing skills that the volunteers would need in their new jobs: facilitating small group discussions and actions, guiding adult learning, and, ultimately, building community leaders.

"This is my favorite training," says Brook Clark, WMLSC Program Coordinator, "with basic concepts of working with people that you can use right away. Nicole is such a fire-cracker. She has been an AmeriCorps volunteer and so she knows how tough the work can be, so that lends to how effective she is."

For Cathy Orr, the workshops not only provided her with the training and skills she will use as Family Resource Center Coordinator at Hamilton Middle school, but the workshop gave her an opportunity to spend time with other Coordinators in the valley. "It was tough to give up a weekend for a training, but it was so great to bring us all together. Not only to learn how to work with small groups, that was really applicable and appropriate for what we do, but it was another opportunity to get to know one another. We don't have a lot of time at team meetings to visit. It was so nice to have the time."

"It was really intensive," said Clark, "but the training was done in such a safe way and in small groups so that we really bonded as a team." The ability to work together as a team is at the heart of the work of the Literacy Corps. It is something that Team Leaders Melissa Parrott and Nancy Preston work hard at developing. It must be working.

"The Literacy Corps brought a tremendous energy," said Shannon Stober. "They are a very diverse group with very different perspectives, but they are a highly-bonded team, and with such high energy!" She noted that the corps excels at that sense of team, essential to that commitment to making a difference in the community.



Spooks Continued...

the audience. Collier, a member of the Walla Walla, Nez Perce, Wyam, and Umpqua tribes, with a little French thrown in, enchanted the listener's young and old with Native American stories.

Promoting literacy and developing literacy skills in families is one of the missions of Family Resource Centers. Working together with the wealth of parent resources such as Collier and school librarians, Lewis and Clark Family Resource Center Co-Coordinator Erin Kral was thrilled with the event. "The kids were so into the stories that Rob told," she said. "They didn't take their eyes off him and wanted him to keep telling stories. They didn't want the night to end."



Congratulations to the Raffle winners from the Parent Expo!!!

Serena Bailey-Missoula

Angela Knox-Missoula

Angela Meadows-St. Ignatius

Lual Means-Missoula

Bobbi Perkins-Victor

Locations of the Family Resource Centers:

Missoula Area:

Bonner School
PO Box 1004
Bonner, MT 59823
Anya Miles
406-258-6151

Franklin Elementary
1901 S. 10th West
Missoula, MT 59802
Alicia Crandell
406-327-0483
franklinfr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Hawthorne Elementary
2835 S. 3rd West
Missoula, MT 59804
Carrie Strike
406-327-6945
hawthornefr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Lewis and Clark Elementary
2901 Park St.
Missoula, MT 59801
Erin Kral
Laurie Schindler
406-327-6946
frclewis@mcps.k12.mt.us

Lowell Elementary
1200 Sherwood
Missoula, MT 59802
Josh Archey
406-327-0390
lowellfr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Paxson Elementary
101 Evans
Missoula, MT 59801
Liz Stotts
406-542-4055
frcpaxson@mcps.k12.mt.us

Rattlesnake Elementary
1220 Pineview
Missoula, MT
Jane Yungmeyer-Olson
406-542-4914
resfr@mcps.k12.mt.us

Russell Elementary
3216 Russell St.
Missoula, MT 59801
Jillian Foster
406-728-2400 ext 4846
frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us

Teen Family Resource Center
1861 S. 12th St
Missoula, MT 59802
406-542-4900

Bitterroot Area:

Daly/Grantsdale Elementary
778 Grantsdale St.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Rachel Martin
406-363-2122 ext 190
406-363-1889
martinr@hds3.org

Florence Elementary
5602 Old Hwy 93
Florence, MT 59833
Vanessa Ward
406-273-6741 ext 203
elemfr@florence.k12.mt.us

Florence Middle School
5602 Old Hwy 93
Florence, MT 59833
Christa Burns
406-273-6741 ext 203
burnsc@florence.k12.mt.us

Hamilton Middle School
209 S. 5th St

Hamilton, MT 59840
Cathy Orr
406-363-2121 ext 5004
orrc@hds3.org

Hamilton High School
327 Fairgrounds Rd
Hamilton, MT 59840
Ellen Ryter
406-375-6060 ext 6222
rytere@hds3.org

Lone Rock Elementary
1112 Three Mile Creek Rd
Stevensville, MT 59870
Erica Amt
406-777-3314 ext 219
ericaamt@lonerockschool.org

Ravalli Head Start
81 Kurtz Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840
Cami Ewalt
Susan Matthews
406-363-1217 ext 20

Kids First
Westview Center
103 S. 9th St. #105
Hamilton, MT 59840
Jodi Waliser
406-375-9588
jwaliser@bitterrootkids.org

Stevensville Elementary
300 Park Ave
Stevensville, MT 59870
Debbie Bauer-Johnson
406-777-5613 ext 351
johnsond@stevensville.k12.mt.us

Stevensville Junior High

300 Park Street
Stevensville, MT 59870
Debbie Bauer-Johnson
406-777-5533
johnsond@stevensville.k12.mt.us

Washington Primary
225 N. 5th St.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Michelle Wilson
406-363-2144

Victor School
425 4th Avenue
Victor, MT 59875
Stacey Burdett
406-642-3221 ext 255
burdett@victor.k12.mt.us

Flathead Area:

Cherry Valley Elementary
111 4th Ave
Polson, MT 59860
Tara Bowman
Liana Zimmerman
406-883-6333 ext 525

Linderman Elementary
111 4th Ave
Polson, MT 59860
Cassie Anderson
406-883-6229

Two Eagle River School
PO Box 160
Pablo, MT 59855
Dacia Whitworth
406-675-0292

WORD-Family Resource Centers

127 N. Higgins Ave
Suite 307
Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: 406-543-3550