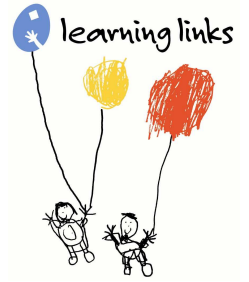




Reading for Life e-news



Reading for Life celebrates helping 1,000 children

On Tuesday 14 November, representatives from schools, the NSW Department of Education and Training, companies involved with the program, supporters and Learning Links came together to celebrate a wonderful milestone for Reading for Life, Learning Links' volunteer reading program for primary school children falling behind in reading.

The celebration was supported by Unilever Australasia, our foundation partner, and Allens Arthur Robinson and honoured everyone involved in making Reading for Life an amazing success, including the schools whose responsiveness and support for the program has been vital in reaching so many children.

We would like to say thank you to the following companies and organisations that have contributed to the success of the program.

Unilever Australasia, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers in seven schools in NSW; three in Victoria and three in New Zealand. The company has also helped children in 13 schools in the Sydney metropolitan area through its funding of programs run by Masters of Psychology students.

Allens Arthur Robinson, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers at St James Primary and children at Harrington Street Public through its funding of programs run by Masters of Psychology students.

Genworth Financial, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers in Crown Street Public School in NSW and

Freemans Bay School in New Zealand. As a result of the success of their programs, Genworth Financial has asked Learning Links to develop Counting for Life to help children falling behind with numeracy. This program is currently being trialed at Crown Street Public School.

Mitchell & Partners, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers in schools in NSW and Victoria.

ANZ, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers at schools in Victoria and NSW. Most recently, its staff has been helping children in schools in Western Australia and Queensland.

Cadbury Schweppes, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers at schools in Victoria and Tasmania.

Rio Tinto, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers at Abbotsford Primary in Victoria.

Amtor, for helping children with its own employees as volunteers at Hartwell Primary in Victoria.

Hutt City Council, for supporting the program in New Zealand at Naenae school.

United Way Northern Beaches Youth Community Fund, for funding a Masters of Psychology student to help children from Dee Why Public.

Guildford Bowling and Recreation Club, for funding a Masters of Psychology student to help children from Guildford West Public.

The HV McKay Charitable Trust, for funding our first NSW country program for community volunteers to help children from Narranga Public, Coffs Harbour.

University of NSW SIFE, for raising money and providing volunteers to help children from Daceyville Public.

We would also like to thank **Melbourne Cares** for embracing the program and introducing it to the ANZ, Cadbury Schweppes, Amcor and Rio Tinto.

We would like to welcome the following companies and registered clubs to Reading for Life in 2007.

Citigroup
Mark Knox The Good Guys South Nowra
Guildford Bowling and Recreation Club Burwood RSL
Paddington Woollahra RSL Memorial and Community Club
Forestville RSL
City of Blacktown RSL
Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club
Sawtell RSL
Park Beach Bowling Club
Woolgoolga RSL Club
Coffs Harbour Catholic Club
Mounties
Auburn RSL

Reading for Life's goal is to reach 10,000 children by 2010. We thank all those who have helped us in the journey so far and hope to see many more join with us to achieve this goal.

Do you have past Reading for Life resources or packs that you no longer use?

Learning Links would love to receive these back so we can recycle the resources and keep the program running costs down. Please gather up the resources at your workplace and send it all to Learning Links at 12-14 Pindari Road Peakhurst NSW 2210. Thanks for your support.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr Seuss, American writer & cartoonist (1904-1991)

Who is involved?

Reading for Life stretched beyond the boundaries of New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand for the first time in Terms 3 and 4 this year.

Programs were delivered in Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania. This was a significant step in delivering Reading for Life on a national stage.

The following companies, organisations and schools were involved in Reading for Life during Terms 3 and 4 2006.

Volunteer base	Funding Body	School
UWS, Milperra	Unilever	Merrylands East Public School, NSW
UWS, Milperra	Allens Arthur Robinson	Harrington Street Public School, NSW
UWS, Milperra	Unilever	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Miranda NSW
UWS, Milperra	United Way Northern Beaches Youth Community Fund	Dee Why Public School, NSW
UWS, Milperra	Unilever	Bankstown Public School, NSW
UWS, Milperra	Unilever	St Raphael's, South Hurstville NSW
UWS, Milperra	Unilever	Carlton Public School, NSW
UWS, Milperra	Unilever	St Joseph's, Riverwood NSW
Macquarie University Student Unilever, North Rocks	Guildford Bowling Club Unilever	Guilford West Public School, NSW Christ the King, NSW
Unilever, Epping	Unilever	Epping North Public School, NSW
Allens Arthur Robinson, Sydney	Allens Arthur Robinson, Unilever	St James' Primary, NSW
Genworth Financial, Sydney	Genworth Financial	Crown Street Public School, NSW (Counting for Life)
ANZ, Sydney	ANZ	Bourke St Public School, NSW
ANZ, WA	ANZ	West Leederville School, WA
ANZ, QLD	ANZ	Petrie Terrace School, QLD
Cadbury Schweppes, Tas	Cadbury Schweppes	Claremont School, Tas
ANZ, Melbourne	ANZ	Galilee Primary, Vic
ANZ, Melbourne	ANZ	South Yarra Primary, Vic
ANZ, Melbourne	ANZ	Abbotsford Primary, Vic
ANZ, Melbourne	ANZ	Richmond West Primary, Vic
Cadbury Schweppes, Melbourne	Cadbury Schweppes	St Kilda Park Primary, Vic
Unilever, Knoxfield	Unilever	Scoresby Primary, Vic
Unilever, Petone	Unilever	Wilford School, NZ
Unilever, Petone	Unilever	Petone Central School, NZ
Hutt City Council	Hutt City Council	Naenae School, NZ
Unilever, Newmarket	Unilever	Newmarket School, NZ
Genworth Financial, Auckland	Genworth Financial	Freemans Bay School, NZ

More University students get involved

Many children in NSW who have participated in Reading for Life have done so with a Master of Psychology student from the University of Western Sydney as their reading buddy. This model has been beneficial for the children and schools as well as the volunteers themselves who learn a great deal from their time as a Reading for Life buddy.

For the first time in New Zealand we had University students participating in the program. Two Education students from Auckland University joined the Unilever employees at Newmarket Primary.

In 2007 we also hope University students will become involved in Victoria.

Both Monash University and Melbourne University would like to provide Psychology Master's students to act as volunteers for Reading for Life. We hope to commence this partnership in 2007 once funding is secured.

Tips for working with your reading buddy

In the stretching section of Reading for Life we cover Syllables. It is essential that children learn to break words up into syllables.

A fun activity to identify syllables is to use actions. Start with brainstorming words in a group; for example, football team names, school friend's names, teacher's names, pop stars and favourite foods.

Then identify the syllables and as you say the words use some of the following ways to make it more fun:

- clicking your fingers;
- high fives;
- blinking your eyes;
- rotating your hips;

- tapping your foot;
- slapping your knees;
- bending your knees;
- nodding your head; and/or
- raising your eyebrows

Ask the child you are working with to invent other new actions.

Kids' comments

Often Reading buddies comment on the heart warming experiences that they have with their students.

One volunteer was asked by the child he was working with if his little brother could go to Reading for Life too. He wanted to read with his brother and share his enthusiasm for reading! This is not an uncommon request because the experience can be so wonderful for a child thanks to dedicated and caring Reading Buddy volunteers.

At the end of each session one child takes great delight in writing his own comment in the communication book. The first entry read 'fun', the second 'more fun' and the third entry 'extremely dangerous fun'.

Happy holidays

On behalf of everyone at Learning Links, I would like to wish all our wonderful volunteers and Reading Buddies a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

Dr Danielle Tracey
National Director
Reading & Counting for Life