



United Jewish Federation®
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

BETTER TOGETHER

December 2015
Reading Partners

Marlyn's Message

Dear volunteers,

Congratulations and woo-hoo! We sold 113 tickets in the Lord and Taylor "Shop Smart Do Good" fundraiser this fall and as a result raised \$565 from the event. This is the most money we've ever raised from ticket sales. In addition to that, we will benefit from the entire store's sales that were purchased on the Shop Smart day. Based on their sales and how many Reading Partners vouchers were turned in, we will get another check later in the year. We were one of 75 organizations who took part in the event.

Thanks to those who participated and made this a great success. I nominate Ena Sarkar (Hart School) again to head up this effort; she did a great job of communicating and getting people excited about the event. Thanks, Ena!



We'll be using part of these funds to pay for our year-end speaker and to buy new literacy games for the schools that don't have them. There are many exciting games out there and if you have any favorites, please send me information about them.

I wish all your holidays are filled with warmth and joy. See you in 2016!

Warm regards,
Marlyn

Thank You Stark School



Reading Partners re-energized after the workshop:
L to R: Irma Paull, Batyah Ben-David, Jeanne Hersh and Harriet Weinstein.

Thirty new and seasoned volunteers attended a literacy workshop at Stark School and were not disappointed. In addition to Betsy's presentations (see right), they met Sarah Santasiero, Reading Specialist and serious "gamer" of all things literacy based. Sarah introduced them to many simple literacy games such as Go Fish, Speed Cards, Memory, Slap a Word and War. She also engaged several volunteers in word games, such

A Betsy DeSantis Production!



Betsy DeSantis with student at Read Aloud workshop at Julia A. Stark School

Longtime program supporter, Betsy DeSantis, presented a workshop for Reading Partners on December 1 at her home school, Julia A. Stark. Being on site afforded her the opportunity to demonstrate a Read Along with one of her students, pictured above.

Betsy opened the workshop with a discussion of how to pick out "Just Right" books for our student

as "yes/no", where you try and answer questions without using the words yes or no. Very challenging and a good workout for young students and old!

Jeanne Hersh,(above), first year Reading Partner, gave us this feedback after the workshop: "Betsy was very motivating.(During the Read Along) the child looked at her almost constantly, looking for cues.She demonstrated how to prod the child to think and was very dramatic.It was all very enjoyable and very helpful, especially the section on "Just Right" books. "

partners. She emphasized the importance of building students' confidences by starting out slowly and then offering texts with more difficulty and therefore, instructional value. A reader is more likely to take risks and work hard to tackle a challenge if the rest of the text feels comfortable.

On building rapport and making connections, Betsy offered these points--

The one-on-one relationship you have with your student benefits them socially, emotionally and academically. Cultural norms may be in conflict with school norms and expectations, such as looking at adults in the eyes, initiating conversations, speaking openly, freely, and at length. Students for whom English is a second language may struggle to find the vocabulary to maintain a conversation or to answer questions.

So----keep smiling. Model appropriate responses. Extend "wait time." Build in "talking time."

Pause * Prompt * Praise

Pause: If the child comes to a tricky word, give the child a chance to identify the word.

When the child makes an error or stops because of difficulty with reading material, wait for about 5 seconds before intervening. The intent is to allow a child a bit of time to make an independent move such as rereading or self-correction. Time for reflection about a possible choice of strategy is important in developing student independence.

Prompt: Say---

What can you do to help yourself?

Look at the picture.

Check the first letter.

Think about the story. What's happening?

What would make sense?

Does that sound like it would in a book?

Skip the word and keep reading. You may figure it out.



Praise: Compliment the reader on what she/he is doing well.

Say--

Wow! I loved how you used the first letter sound to figure that out.

I saw that you used the picture to help. That is what good readers do.

You fixed yourself! How did you know that didn't work?

I like the way you used a word you knew to figure out this word.

Looking Ahead!

Passover Holiday is April 22-29.

Annual Recognition Breakfast is May 25, 2016 at the JCC.

Reading Partners Contact: Marlyn Agatstein

203.321.1373 x115 or readingpartners@ujf.org