



**July 2016**

Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor  
Reading Partners Program



### **MARLYN'S MESSAGE**

Hello All Sun Lovers,

Summer is a wonderful time to kick back, spend lazy days outdoors gardening, going on walks, reconnecting with neighbors, or hosting friends and family come visiting from afar. For our program, it's also a time for reflection on what we accomplished and how we can move forward with an even better program.

I received 51 feedback forms back from you all and appreciated the comments you shared. Overall, the results were very positive and I'm grateful to know that you feel appreciated in your service and will be continuing next year. In response to the question, "How would you describe your overall experience?" came the following: "I appreciated even more the joys and frustrations of teachers and how outside issues intrude on the learning." "Helping young students who need help is very satisfying." "Very gratifying for me. It is very energizing just being around children. I always enjoy being with the children I tutor and seeing their progress." "Over the course of the year I saw a lot of improvements in the kids which is quite satisfying. They seemed to enjoy the reading sessions. Space at the school is a problem! Some days I had to walk around to find a spot."

Finding a quiet space to read is a universal problem at most of our schools and each handles it uniquely- one school made up a schedule for us by finding empty rooms; another school uses a conference room on off days; another one set a table and chairs outside the classroom in a small nook. This summer, I am talking with various principals to see what other options are available for us so that we can improve this situation. In addition, I'm doing an inventory of the books and games to see what/where we need to fill in.

If you have any K-3 appropriate books, consider donating them to the program to your school or other schools that we're building up. For instance, we'll be starting a book and games section at The New School at Strawberry Hill (see article below) for our volunteers to use there. We love tried and true, old and well used books, games, workbooks, or even new ones that you'd like to donate. Just give a holler and I'll collect them.

Enjoy your August!

*Marlyn*

## The Tutor's Rights



1. You have the right to receive training as a tutor, although you may have to initiate the learning on your own.
2. You have the right to a conducive tutoring environment, although you may have to use your own creativity to make it happen.
3. You have the right to the appropriate equipment and materials for tutoring your student, although you may need to be assertive to get those materials.

## Welcoming Our Newest School Partner



Reading Partners getting ready for the opening of  
The New School at Strawberry Hill  
L-R: Sallie Kuh, Marlyn Agatstein, Mausume Patra and Ann Rosenbaum

This fall we are adding a new team to Stamford's 13th and newest elementary school, The New School at Strawberry Hill. It is an IB (International Baccalaureate) Magnet Extension school to the Rogers International School on Blachley Road. IB schools have a global perspective on learning and must be authorized by the IB organization that is headquartered in Switzerland. There are 4000 IB schools worldwide serving students ages 3-19.

This first year, The New School at Strawberry Hill (whose name change is part of an ongoing focus type group!) will house students in

4. You have the right to receive help with troubleshooting and handling sticky situations, although you may need to find information yourself.

5. You have the right to be recognized for your contribution, although you may need to create your own rewards.

From: *The Reading Tutor's Handbook* by Schumm and Schumm.

grades K&1. Each year thereafter, another grade will be added up to 8th grade. We are assembling a volunteer team to put in place there with priority now going to parents of the school's students.

Principal Frank Rodriguez has welcomed Reading Partners into the school with these words: "Reading Partners provides an added resource for students to freely and informally read with a guest. It provides an added experience, and perspective on the value of reading. It's a win-win because it gives students the opportunity to talk about books and develop a mentor relationship, concurrently.

**Mark your Calendars & Save the Date!!!!!!**

**New Volunteer Training Events  
for 2016-2017**

**September 11, 2016 1-3 PM at the JCC  
1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford**

**1-2 PM: Welcome to Reading Partners and  
Introductory training with Marlyn  
Agatstein, Director of Reading Partners**

**2-3 PM: Focus training on 1st and 2nd grade  
reading skills and strategies. Presented  
by Judy Martin, Reading Specialist**

**New volunteers and seasoned volunteers Welcome  
at all sessions. Further invitations to follow in August.**



**Let's Get Together for our first ever social!**

**Get acquainted with your fellow Reading Partners at the Bartlett Arboretum and enjoy some summer music. Bring a picnic and your family!**

**August 28, 10-12 noon.**

**10-11 am: Long Ridge Music School instructors play classical selections.**

**11-12 noon. Stay and picnic on the grounds.**

**Another invitation to follow in August.**

For more information about Reading Partners, contact Marlyn Agatstein at 203-321-1373 x115 or [Readingpartners@ujf.org](mailto:Readingpartners@ujf.org).