

**Joanie Y. Chase**  
Executive Director



Everybody Wins! D.C. Inc.  
1001 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
6th Floor South  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Phone: 202-624-3957  
Fax: 202-624-3959

**Mary K. Salander**  
Deputy Director



Everybody Wins! D.C. Inc.  
1001 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
6th Floor South  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Phone: 202-624-3957  
Fax: 202-624-3959



**When Adults Read With Children**

PHOTOCOPY  
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## FACT SHEET

### What is Everybody Wins! DC?

Everybody Wins! DC is a privately funded, non-profit organization devoted to promoting children's literacy and love of learning through shared reading experiences with caring adults. These experiences enhance children's self-esteem and expand their possibilities for success in school and in life and enable adult volunteers and communities to experience the rewards of enriching young lives. The U.S. Senate launched the program at Robert Brent Elementary School in Washington, DC on March 7, 1995. This year, Everybody Wins! DC is in 27 public elementary schools impacting over 4,000 children in at-risk communities in the Washington Metropolitan area.

### What is the Power Lunch Program?

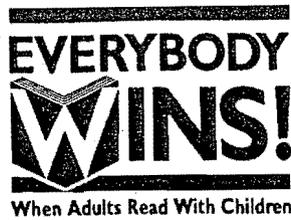
The Power Lunch Program is a unique literacy and mentoring program that partners professionals with public elementary school children. Once a week, volunteer Reading Mentors go to local schools to meet with their student partners, and the pairs share conversation and good books over school lunch. The goal is to reach the children while they are young and stimulate their interest in reading and writing. A 1985 report from the Commission of Reading, *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, concluded: "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." The Power Lunch Program benefits children academically, as well as socially, by bringing a diverse selection of children's literature into the schools and providing students with caring adult readers who act as informal mentors and positive role models. Response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive, and most of our volunteers continue to read with the same student partners for several years.

### What are Parent Workshops?

Everybody Wins! DC conducts parent workshops at the Power Lunch schools. The workshops, facilitated by literacy professionals, are designed to introduce families to the program and provide them with tools to continue literacy efforts in the home. The workshops emphasize the crucial role that parents must play in helping their children become literate. Students introduce their parents to their Reading Mentors, and students, families, and volunteers participate in literacy discussions and activities. Participants also receive information about their local libraries and other literacy programs, and students take home free children's books.

### What is StoryTime?

Through the StoryTime program, Everybody Wins! DC brings storytellers to public elementary schools that otherwise receive very few special enrichment opportunities. Once a month, storytellers, local authors, and other performers visit the schools and bring the joy and magic of storytelling to groups of children. Often the performances are interactive, calling upon the children to play musical instruments, make sound effects, or dance. Afterwards, the children receive brand new books to take home.



One of the most critical problems facing our country today is functional illiteracy. Our national standard of living and the ability for our country to compete in a global economy are at stake if American young people are unable to read.

#### **THE CRISIS:**

- \* 51% of our high-school students are graduating functionally illiterate, according to a 1993 national education study.
- \* The effects on the American workforce are staggering, with American businesses spending over \$200 billion annually to teach remedial reading and math skills to their employees.
- \* The social costs of incarceration and welfare are directly related to functional illiteracy.

#### **EVERYBODY WINS! MISSION:**

The mission of **Everybody Wins!** is to foster children's literacy and love of learning through shared reading experiences with caring adults that enhance children's self-esteem and expand their possibilities for success in school and life and to enable adult volunteers and communities to experience the rewards of enriching young lives. **Everybody Wins!** does this by pairing elementary school children with Reading Mentors recruited from the federal government, corporations and other organizations. The Reading Mentors promote reading for pleasure, serve as caring adult role models, build self-confidence and enhance self-esteem.

#### **THE PROGRAM IS SIMPLE:**

- \* Once a week the volunteers go to a nearby elementary school, meet with their student reading partners, eat lunch and read together.
- \* We take full responsibility for all administration and coordination by engaging full-time staff to handle all recruitment and orientation. We also hire a parent, part-time, to be a communicator.
- \* We provide books, training materials, orientations, parent workshops, enrichment activities for the students, liability insurance and other necessary supplies for the program.

# **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

## **Power Lunch Schools**

**John Quincy Adams Elementary**  
1900 California Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

**Francis Scott Key Elementary**  
2300 Key Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201

**Margaret Amidon Elementary**  
401 I Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20009

**Marie H. Reed Community  
Learning Center**  
2200 Champlain Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

**Anthony Bowen Elementary**  
101 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

**John Ross Elementary**  
1730 R Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

**Robert Brent Elementary**  
3rd & D Streets, SE  
Washington, DC 20002

**Strong John Thomson Elementary**  
12th & L Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

**Highland View Elementary**  
9010 Providence Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20901

**John Tyler Elementary**  
10th & G Streets, SE  
Washington, DC 20001

**Walker-Jones Elementary**  
1st & L Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

## StoryTime Schools

### **Maude Aiton Elementary**

533 48th Place, NE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **Benning Elementary**

100 41st Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **James G. Birney Elementary**

2501 Martin Luther King Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20020

### **Burrville Elementary**

801 Division Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **Adelaide Davis Elementary**

4430 H Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **Gage-Eckington Elementary**

2025 3rd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

### **Mildred E. Gibbs Elementary**

500 19th Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

### **Kenilworth Elementary**

1300 44th Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **River Terrace Elementary**

420 34th Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **William Seaton Elementary**

1503 10th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

### **Marion P. Shadd Elementary**

5601 East Capitol Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **Neval Thomas Elementary**

650 Anacostia Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20019

### **Anita J. Turner Elementary**

3264 Stanton Road, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

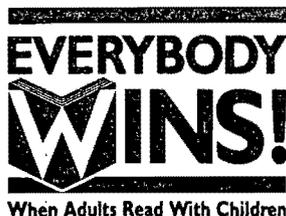
### **Van Ness Elementary**

1150 5th Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

## Books Project School

### **Oyster Elementary**

2801 Calvert Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008



## Volunteering Companies and Organizations

The United States Senate	Greenberg Quinlan Research, Inc.
The United States House of Representatives	Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc.
The United States Supreme Court	Independent Fiduciary Services, Inc.
Department of Defense/The Pentagon	Kirkland & Ellis
Department of Education	KPMG LLP
Department of Energy	Lent & Schrivner
Department of Health and Human Services	Levy Restaurants at The MCI Center
Department of Labor	Lucent Technologies
Environmental Protection Agency	The Masonic Temple/ RH Gleaves Assembly #2
DC Mayor's Office	Meltzer & Associates
DC Office of Grants Management and Development	Microsoft Corporation
Academy for Educational Development	National Association of Broadcasters
American Geophysical Union	National Cable Television Association
American Petroleum Institute	National Education Association
Bank of America	National Geographic Society
Boros & Garofalo, P.C.	National Governors' Association
Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc.	National Institute for Literacy
CACI	National Mentoring Partnership
Cellular Telecommunications Industry Assoc.	National Public Radio
Clark Charitable Foundation	The New Republic
Cook Ross Inc.	Newsweek
Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Assn.	Northeast Midwest Institute
C-SPAN	O'Connor & Hannan
Daughters of the American Revolution	Peace Corps
Discovery Communications, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	Pfizer Inc. <sup>3</sup>
District Government Employees Federal Credit Union	Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy <sup>4</sup>
Dow Chemical	Prudential
Eastman Kodak Company	RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company
General Dynamics <sup>2</sup>	Smithsonian Institution
General Electric Company	Washington Hebrew Congregation
Gold's Gym	The Washington Post
	Washington Sports Entertainment

1. Also helped produce the EW! video  
2. Also provides funding for federal volunteers

3. Also helped produce EW! video  
4. Also donates EW! office space



# Sponsors

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FHC Health Systems Inc  
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First USA  
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Food Marketing Institute  
Forensic Medical Advisory Service  
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National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
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WRS Motion Picture & Video Laboratory  
Zeneca  
ZETA Associates Inc

# EVERYBODY WINS!

When Adults Read With Children

# The EW! Gazette

Winter 2000

Volume III, Issue 2

**i** EW! in 2000 4,5  
**n** Reading Nook 7  
**s** Special School Inserts  
**i** Everybody Wins! DC is a  
**d** privately funded, not-for-  
**e** profit organization devoted to fostering children's literacy and love of learning through shared reading experiences with caring adults that enhance children's self-esteem and expand their possibilities for success in school and in life and enabling adult volunteers and communities to experience the rewards of enriching young lives.

For more information about EW!, please call us at (202) 624-3957.

The EW! Gazette is compiled and edited by Rachel Rosenthal.

## From the Directors

In March, Everybody Wins! DC will celebrate its fifth anniversary in the Washington Metropolitan area. We feel like parents, unable to believe that the fledging infant we helped give birth to five years ago is now the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in the area, serving over 4,000 children. We are so grateful to all the people who have given their support to enable Everybody Wins! to become what it is today. We have great dreams and hopes for the future of Everybody Wins! Through our Power Lunch and StoryTime programs, we hope to reach out and serve thousands of children in Title I schools throughout the Washington Metropolitan area.



Executive Director Joanie Chase, Congressman Burr, Mayor Anthony Williams, and Deputy Director Mary Salander enjoy the EW! in 2000 fall Pep Rally at Walker Jones.

One key to our development is a recently completed, comprehensive evaluation of the Power Lunch program, conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education. Through surveys and interviews with students, volunteers, and teachers, the evaluation assessed the program's impact on children. Initial results show that the Power Lunch program benefits participating students and volunteers.

We want to welcome Mr. David Savner to our Board of Directors. David is senior vice president and general counsel for General Dynamics. He has a great deal of experience in strategic planning, and we welcome his expertise.

As we enter the new millennium, we wish you all good health and meaning in your lives.

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☐ everyone who contributed to EW! as part of the Combined Federal Campaign and United Way this fall. We appreciate your support!

☐ all of the companies which matched their employees' contributions to EW!

☐ Daughters of the American Revolution, Merrill Lynch, the National Association of Broadcasters, and Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy for their generous holiday donations.

☐ Discovery Communications for holding EW! recruitment week in the fall. 1998-99 Power Lunch volunteers received gift certificates to Barnes & Noble for each new Discovery volunteer they recruited.

☐ First Book for donating 25,000 books to EW!

☐ CTIA and Cellular One for donating cellular phones and service for EW! staff.

☐ Pat Gaskins-Henry and the DC Office of Grants Management for their book donation.

☐ KPMG for their book donation.

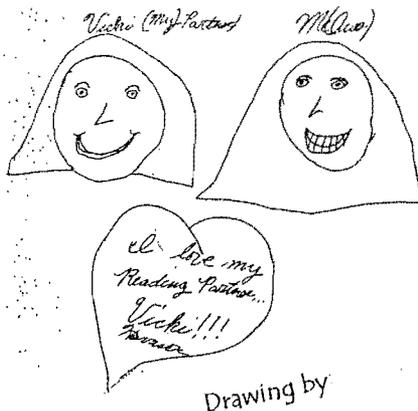
☐ Women of Washington, Inc. for selecting EW! as the recipient of their Non-Profit Alliance Award for 1999-2000.

# News from ADAMS Elementary School

We are off to a wonderful start this year with 170 volunteers and 141 children in the first through sixth grades reading in the program. We have mentors returning from Kirkland & Ellis, the Peace Corps, the Cosmetics, Toiletries, and Fragrances Association, National Geographic Society, National Education Association, National Association of Broadcasters, American Geophysical Union, Academy for Educational Development, KPMG, DOW Chemicals, O'Connor & Hannan, Lucent Technologies, Azentis Pharmaceuticals, and several individuals. We would also like to welcome our new readers from Boros & Garofalo aboard the program. Thanks to ALL the Reading Mentors for your dedication to the children at Adams Elementary School!

Since the beginning of the year, our library at Adams has grown due to the generous donations from individual readers and NEA, KPMG, K&E, and AED. We are extremely grateful and we thank you on behalf of the children.

We are looking forward to bringing in the new millennium with more reading and friendship among the mentors and students!!!



Drawing by  
Awa Goodwin  
3rd Grade

Umma has been my reading partner for almost 2 years. During that time, she has evolved from a shy, young girl who was just learning English into a confident young lady who was the mistress of ceremonies at the Adams School Asia/Pacific Day last spring. At that event Umma also participated in a lovely dance wearing the dress of her native country, Bangladesh. Every week I look forward to catching up with Umma's progress and activities. She is curious, upbeat, and has a great sense of humor. I thoroughly enjoy our reading time. Interacting with Umma, the other students, and the Adams EW staff is truly rejuvenating.

- Aileen Worthington, NGS  
Reads with Umma Asma, 6th Grade

For the first few sessions when Erick & I began reading, he would forget and we would have to drag him away from the playground. Now Erick is patiently waiting for me to arrive with no less than 5 or 6 books tucked under his arm. If the hour is up before we finish reading a story, he'll say "Oh! Man!" and reluctantly gather up his books and continue reading the story aloud until we reach the "Book Return" box. Erick initially told me that he reads a little- and proudly announced that his mother taught him how to read. I soon discovered Erick reads well...he's adorable, smart and a joy to read with.

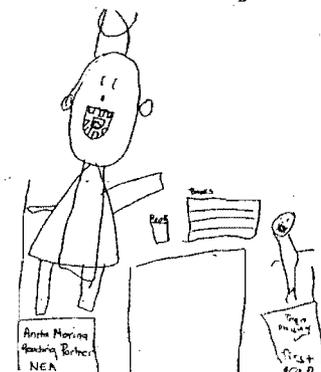
- Gloria Constant, National Education Association  
Reads with Erick Caballero, 1st Grade



Drawing by Michelle Ocop  
5th Grade

I have been a Reading Mentor to first grader Phung Tran for only a few weeks, but in that short time I already have a scene tucked into my memory for all time. On my second visit, I walked in the door and Phung literally screamed with excitement, his eyes wide, his smile bright, and his arms full of books. I had the same uplifting feeling the first time I saw him. It was like one of those old movies where old lovers meet in a crowded train station, seeing no one but one another. We race toward one another, eager to begin again, eager to reach out and read.

- Anita Merina, NEA  
Reads with Phung Tran, 1st Grade



## NEWS FROM HIGHLAND VIEW

We're off to a great start here at HVES! With over 135 volunteers reading with over 80 children we are now running the program five days a week. We're thrilled to have Jane Cawley (Mom of Sarah and Eli Braun) on staff with Sarah Harlen to help coordinate our growing program. Congratulations to Discovery Communications Inc. Since last year they have DOUBLED the amount of volunteers that come to read here each week. We now have over 100 volunteers from DCI! Many thanks to Nancy Brien for her help with recruiting our wonderful mentors.

### REFLECTIONS...

*Andi (my reading mentor) is a very nice, kind, honest and generous lady. I love her because she is just like me. We both love reading and talking to each other. We read mostly Nate the Great and Arthur. We just started Harry Potter. It's great. We meet every Tuesday unless we reschedule or get sick etc. I tell her everything that happens or is going to happen to me or other exciting things. I've been in "Everybody Wins!" for two years. I loved it all years. I think this is my third year. She always tells me things that happen to her or anything. I love her. It seems sometimes I have two mothers.*

Katie Scott, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

I absolutely love being involved with Everybody Wins. Frank (Fluitt), my partner, is the most amazing kid. I have a wonderful time reading with him and really enjoy the time Frank and I spend together. All week I look forward to the one hour we spend taking different adventures through books and sharing our thoughts on everything.

Banafsheh Kamali, DCI

*Reading to Amanda is like eating potato chips. You can't just have one! The more you eat the more you want! Every time I visit with Amanda, I can't wait to come back for more.*

Evelyne Steward, DCI

Andy Scott is a great boy - bright, mannerly and soft-spoken. His world - elementary school - is new to me at this time in my life and I am enjoying it immensely. Thanks to Andy for being my friend.

Bess Hormats, Washington Hebrew Congregation

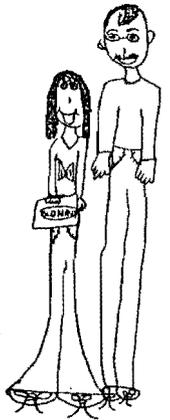
*I am so thrilled that I joined Everybody Wins! because I now have a GREAT new friend! Jeni (Huezo) and I not only enjoy reading together, but we also make sure to spend time just chatting, you know, "girl talk". She is a wonderful, bright girl, and I look forward to every Wednesday when she greets me with her beautiful smile.*

Jenny Mittleman, DCI

Thank you Mrs. Jenny for being my best mentor and I really am happy for you to be my mentor.

Jeni Huezo 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Grade 2  
Missy



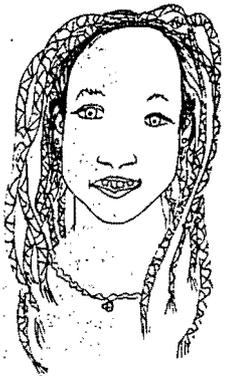
Frank Fluitt

Willa



AMRE SHAW

Aden Behave



Everybody Wins

is fun...

Everybody Wins! in 2000



When Adults Read With Children

## EW! Gives a Congressional Salute

Spectacular weather, an historic site and more than 150 supporters served as the backdrop for the first annual *Capitol Hill Day*, the second event of the Everybody Wins! in 2000 Campaign. *Capitol Hill Day* honored five members of Congress for their commitment to literacy, mentoring and volunteerism. The event took place October 27 at the US Capitol.

Festivities began with a press conference in front of the Capitol, opened with Ross Elementary School's choir singing an EW! song. Following were opening remarks by EW! Executive Director Joanie Chase and Highland View Elementary student Zoya Johnson. Walker Jones and Brent Elementary students DaVon Peyton and Jasmine Harrison encouraged adults to volunteer and read with children.

The press conference continued with remarks from the event's honorees: Senator Jeffords (R-VT), Senator Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Landrieu (D-LA), Representative LaHood (R-IL) and Representative Burr (R-NC). Members, with their student partners, spoke eloquently about their experiences in the Power Lunch program and received plaques honoring their support of EW! and their weekly reading sessions at Brent and Tyler Elementary Schools.

Special guest Mrs. Virginia Hayes Williams, first mother of Washington, DC, children's advocate and staunch supporter of EW!, attended on behalf of her son, Mayor Anthony Williams. She read a proclamation from the Mayor's office, making October 27, 1999 "Everybody Wins! in 2000 Day" in DC.

After the press conference, the audience, made up of corporate, foundation, and nonprofit representatives, attended a reception inside the Capitol.

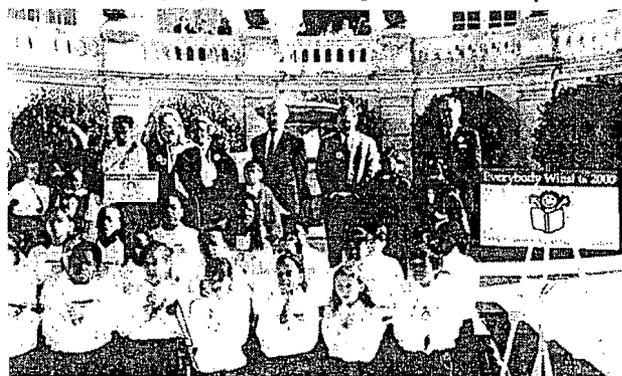
"We were pleased to honor our five champions during Capitol Hill Day," said EW! Deputy Director Mary Salander. "These are people who go beyond talking the talk. They 'walk the walk' by making time in their extremely busy schedules to read with student reading partners once a week. They are making a difference in the lives of children, one book at a time."

## Everybody Wins! Makes A Joyful Noise in 2000 Gospel Concert To Benefit EW!, Celebrate Black History Month

The Everybody Wins! in 2000 Campaign continues in the new millennium with *Singing For Our Children*, a benefit gospel concert featuring three generations of gospel performers at Howard University during Black History Month. The concert will take place on Saturday, February 12, at 7:30 pm in Cramton Auditorium. Grammy award winner Albertina Walker will reunite with former Caravans group member Dorothy Norwood, known as "The World's Greatest Gospel Story Teller," to headline a special evening of music celebrating the rich history and culture of gospel music. Also appearing are Isaiah Thomas and Elements of Praise and the Union Temple Baptist Church Youth Choir. Concert tickets are \$30 and are available through Ticketmaster or at the Cramton Auditorium Box Office. Tickets are \$35 at the door. VIP tickets are available for \$100 through EW! Call (202) 624-3957 for information.

"We are excited about the concert," said EW! Executive Director Joanie Chase. "Having two legends of gospel music perform with some of the best contemporary talent on the East Coast on behalf of EW! is an excellent way to celebrate Black History Month and honor the children we serve. It is certain to be an unforgettable evening."

Albertina Walker, an accomplished and well-respected gospel performer, got her start at age four when she began singing with the Children's Choir of West Point Baptist Church in Chicago. As a teenager, she sang with two gospel groups. At 22, she formed the world famous group, Caravans, which launched the careers of Dorothy Norwood, Inez Andrews, Shirley Caesar, Delores Washington, Cassieta George and Reverend James Cleveland. Walker followed this success with a solo career that includes over 60 albums, the 1995 Grammy for Best Traditional Album, two Stellar Awards and several other honors. She supports several charities and established the Albertina Walker Foundation of the Creative and Performing Arts, which offers scholarships to college students aspiring to serve in the gospel community. *(cont on pg. 5)*



Ross Elementary School's choir opens Capitol Hill Day with an EW! song

Cont. from pg. 4

Joining Walker is Dorothy Norwood, "The World's Greatest Gospel Story Teller." Norwood began her career singing and touring with her family in Atlanta at age eight. Later, she moved to Chicago where she performed with the Caravans and Mahalia Jackson. Norwood's success includes gold albums, international tours and a 30 state/42 city American tour with Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones in 1972. Norwood also works as a producer, collaborating with artists including Ruby Terry, Jesse Williams, Jr. and Destiny.

Joining Walker and Norwood is Isaiah Thomas, Minister of Music for The Scripture Cathedral in Washington, DC. Thomas, a producer and director, has worked with many well known artists and church choirs including Gladys Knight and the Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church Mass Choir. At Singing For Our Children, he will perform with his group, Elements of Praise.

The concert's opening act is the Union Temple Baptist Church Youth Choir. Under the direction of Reverend Mary Wilson, the Youth Choir is one of the most popular in Washington. The group has performed throughout the greater Washington area and in cities across the country.

*Singing For Our Children* is the third event in the EW! in 2000 Campaign. Designed to promote literacy, mentoring and volunteerism, the Campaign focuses on increasing the number of adult volunteers to read with children once a week in DC public elementary schools. Currently, there are hundreds of students on a waiting list to be matched with adult Reading Mentors.

Previous Campaign events were a Back-To-School Pep Rally at Walker Jones Elementary School and Capitol Hill Day. The events included participation of local elected officials, Members of Congress, corporate representatives and celebrity athletes and have been successful in bringing in new volunteers, establishing partnerships and increasing EW!'s visibility. The final event of the Campaign will be the EW! Reading Jam in May.

For more information about the EW! in 2000 Campaign or *Singing For Our Children*, contact Mary Salander, 202-624-3956.



Dorothy Norwood



Albertina Walker

### Corporate Giving: Gifts That Turn Students Into Readers

Everybody Wins! is devoted to promoting children's literacy and love of learning through shared reading experiences with caring adults. EW! accomplishes its mission through innovative programs made possible by the support of corporations, foundations and individuals. Two such philanthropic organizations are General Dynamics and The Clark Charitable Foundation, the main corporate supporters of EW! in 2000. Campaign sponsors help provide financial support for EW! to bring its programs to new schools.

Diane Mossler, VP for Community Affairs at General Dynamics, is one of 26 GD employees reading in the Power Lunch program at Tyler Elementary. The company provides van service for employees to ride to Tyler from McLean, Virginia. According to Mossler, employees look forward to reading each week. "Individually, each of our volunteers has developed a special bond with his/her reading partner. Collectively, I believe those relationships have a tremendous influence on all the children, so they know there are a lot of adults who love to read and want to share that love of reading with them."

General Dynamics' commitment to EW! started at the top. Last year, CEO Nick Chabreja read weekly with a Tyler student. He found it so meaningful, he agreed to co-chair the Campaign and have GD serve as a sponsor. Mossler is enthusiastic about the Campaign and its impact on students. "General Dynamics and its employees believe it is critical to encourage the love of reading, starting with very young children. We believe our involvement with EW! and the Campaign is the best way to help children become strong, enthusiastic readers."

The Clark Charitable Foundation became a Campaign supporter because of Executive Director Courtney Clark Pastrick. An EW! Board Member and Power Lunch reader, Pastrick supports the Campaign because "we believe in the mission of mentoring and increasing literacy in the greater Washington area." I read in the Power Lunch program and I know first hand how well-run it is. We became supporters of the Campaign because we've chosen to focus on a project that increases literacy."

Both Mossler and Pastrick believe corporations, especially those providing EW! volunteers, should be supporters of the Campaign and EW! programs. They believe EW! is a wonderful match between the corporate community and the nonprofit community. "There is no other program that offers employees, and therefore their companies, more satisfaction than helping at-risk children become enthusiastic readers," said Mossler.

# News from Tyler Elementary

This year's EW! program is off to an exciting start at Tyler Elementary School! We are happy to report that we have almost 175 volunteers reading with 140 students this year. Among our devoted volunteers are Rep. Ray LaHood, Rep. Richard Burr, Rep. Jack Quinn, Rep. Ron Kind, and over 100 staffers from the House and Senate. We also have a strong team of dedicated mentors from General Dynamics, Pfizer, SIG Productions, RJ Reynolds, ML Associates, NASP, ARTBA, DCCC, and the DCS who continue to participate in and support our program.

The fourth year of the Power Lunch program at Tyler is sure to be an exciting one. We started the EW! in 2000 Campaign with Capitol Hill Day on October 27. Over 100 volunteers and children from Tyler and other participating schools celebrated this important day that proclaimed October 27 as Everybody Wins! Day in the District of Columbia.

Also in October, Z104's fabulous DJ, John Nolan, stopped by to talk about the importance of reading to our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders while he read from the popular children's book *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein. During his visit, John recorded excerpts from this event and interviewed Tyler's principal, Ms. Joan Kelley, for his radio show. The next morning, Ms. Kelley and the students could be heard on the radio throughout the DC metropolitan area! To cap a wonderful year off, in December we held our Holiday Book distribution. Students were very excited to receive autographed books from their mentors to take home with them and read during the Winter Break.

Now, we are looking forward to another exciting semester of reading in 2000, and we are so happy that you can be a part of it all!

## Here's what students and Reading Mentors are saying about each other!

Being Timothy's reading mentor is great! It looks like he will be helping me to keep up with some of the cool things that I'm missing out on by not being in school!

Yonce Shelton, Rep. Boucher

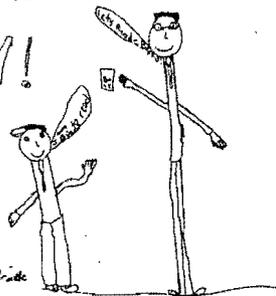
12:15

Emmanuel Cole



happy day

EW!



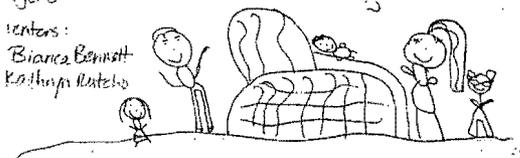
This is my fifth year as a reading volunteer and my second year reading with Adrian. His reading is greatly improved from last year. Keep up the good work! Now, he can read to me!

Kenny Kraft, Rep. Frelinghuysen

We read, we talk, we laugh a lot,  
About the story of Harry Potter-it's quite a shock.  
Taking turns reading the book  
To get each other off the hook.  
One things for sure, it's not a hunch,  
We both enjoy our Power Lunch!  
Megan Limes, 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
RP: Stacy Rastauskas, Rep. Hobson

Britney Lewis  
Age 8

mentors:  
Bianca Bennett  
Kathryn Rutelo



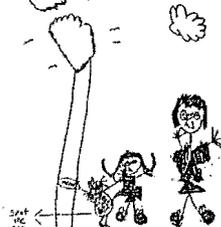
Joe

My reading mentor is nice, pretty and she is a good reader when I don't know a word. She helps me sound it out and she says encouraging words to me.

Geneva Smith, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

RP: Katherine Fisher, Rep. Porter

KE SHAWN DOHISE ONE  
KRISTAN  
ELISA BETH  
MACK



Reading is fun. Everybody Wins! rules the world.  
Garnecia Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
RP: Suzanne Geroux, Rep. Hayworth

Yonce is a man with a funny name. I like him. He is from Tennessee. I read Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel.

Timothy Dunn, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

RP: Yonce Shelton, Rep. Boucher

With the winter weather upon us, what could be better on a stormy or dreary day than staying inside and reading some great books to your son/daughter, niece/nephew, cousin or neighbor? EW! is able to create wonderful and inviting reading environments in the schools with the wonderful participation of our Reading Mentors. We encourage you to carry this over to other places, such as your home, the metro, your car or even the doctor's office.

**Reading great books can lead to so much:**

- more interaction with the younger population
- budding interest in new areas
- better communication with your child, niece, cousin....
- frequent smiles
- unique conversations

We would like to stress the importance of including multicultural/antibias themes in your reading. Encouraging children to read books about a variety of cultures increases opportunities for learning by exposing them to ways of life around the world. Additionally, reading about their own cultures helps children identify with characters and feel empowered.

Here are a few brief summaries of some of the books EW! has chosen for the Black History Month Book List.

Uncle Jed's Barber Shop by Margaree King Mitchell

Uncle Jed is the only black barber around, and he has a dream. He lives for the day when he can open his own barbershop, but in the segregated South of the 1920's, opportunities are rare and setbacks plentiful. There is his niece's emergency operation and the bank failures of the Great Depression. Will Uncle Jed ever get to twirl customers in a chair in his own barbershop?

Zeely by Virginia Hamilton

Elizabeth is going to spend the summer on her uncle's farm – what could be better? Then she meets Zeely, an older girl who tends the farm's hogs. Zeely is beautiful, proud, and dignified, everything Elizabeth longs to be. When she discovers a picture of a Watutsi queen that looks exactly like Zeely, Elizabeth is convinced she's uncovered Zeely's true identity – or has she?

Night Golf by William Miller

In 1899, an African American invented the golf tee, but the Professional Golf Association was not integrated until 1961. Thus lays the backdrop for the story of James, who finds a golf club in the trash and falls in love with the game. How can James learn to play if his skin color prevents him from getting on the course? James develops two plans to hone his skills, one by day and one by night. Will he get the chance to show his talent?

Faraway Drums by Virginia Kroll

Jamilia watches her little sister at night when their mother goes to work. But it's hard to be in charge when the loud city noises are so scary. Perhaps if she relates the sounds to things in their African homeland, they can make it through the night. Loud knocks on doors become the beating of ceremonial drums, sirens wailing are monkeys in trees, and bath time turns into an exotic river swim. Can the girls make it till mama comes home?

Here are some other good choices for further multicultural/antibias reading students might enjoy.

TITLE	AUTHOR	THEME	TITLE	AUTHOR	THEME
Where Did Your Family Come From?	M. Berger	Immigration	We Adopted You, Ben Koo	L. Girard	Asian Adoption
My First Book of Sign Language	Holub	Deafness	The Red Comb	F. Pico	Puerto Rico
Ka-ha-si and the Loon	T. Cohlene	Eskimo legend	Pedro and the Monkey	R. San Souci	Filipino
Anasazi	D. Petersen	Native American	The Faithful Friend	R. San Souci	West Indian
First Passover	L. Swartz	Jewish Holiday	How My Parents Learned to Eat	I. Friedman	Chinese
Isla	A. Dorros	Latino	Just Like Me	Kindersley	Kids of the world
The Mitten	Brett	Scandinavian	Legend of the Indian Paintbrush	DePaola	Native American

## Everybody Wins! would like to thank all of our participating companies and organizations

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## Everybody Wins! DC

1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

6<sup>th</sup> Floor South

Washington, DC 20004

Phone: (202) 624-3957

Fax: (202) 624-3959



When Adults Read With Children

EW! would like to thank all of the volunteers and supporters who designated EW! for their United Way/CFC contributions!

Everybody Wins! in 2000



When Adults Read With Children

# EDUCATION WEEK

## Shared Love of Reading Pairs Senators and Students

By Kathleen Kennedy Manzo

Washington

After a morning spent casting a key vote in the Senate Finance Committee, leading confirmation hearings for surgeon general nominee David Satcher, and questioning tobacco-company executives, Sen. James M. Jeffords rushes to make his "power lunch" a few blocks from the Capitol.

But he's not headed to a posh Washington bistro to meet with lobbyists or powerful constituents.

Instead, the Vermont Republican is hurrying off to spend an hour in the library of a nearby elementary school, where he'll be deep in discussion with a 10-year-old girl as they share a school lunch and their love of reading.

Mr. Jeffords and his young partner, Sherryl Grant, a 4th grader at Robert Brent Elementary School here, meet every week—same time, same place. They read books and talk about school and Sherryl's plans for the future. It is one of the most important engagements on his busy calendar, Mr. Jeffords says.

"It was very difficult getting here today," with everything going on in the Senate, the lawmaker

conceded. "But this hour is very relaxing for me. This is the most rewarding."

Some 450 other congressional volunteers—about a dozen members of the Senate and the rest congressional staff members—spend an hour each week with a student in the District of Columbia schools as part of the Everybody Wins program. The senators visit with children at the 220-student Brent Elementary, where 180 students take part in the program. Staff volunteers are spread among nine public schools in the city.

In its third year in the Washington system, Everybody Wins pairs federal workers and business professionals with students for mentoring and a chance for the youngsters to read aloud. It also trains parents to reinforce the importance of reading at home.

### New York Roots

Mr. Jeffords, the chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, which oversees education, launched the program in Washington in 1995 after hearing about its success in New York City. Arthur Tannenbaum started Everybody Wins there nine years



Sen. James M. Jeffords, R-Vt., takes an hour every week to tutor Sherryl Grant, a 4th grader at Robert Brent Elementary School.

ago when, as a top executive for a New York textiles company, he became concerned about the poor reading performance of public school students in the Big Apple.

He approached the principal of an elementary school close to his business and asked if he and a few colleagues could spend time reading with the children. He chose the lunch hour, the best time for business people to leave the office, because it did not re-

quire that students be pulled out of the classroom.

Mr. Tannenbaum took early retirement several years ago to devote his full-time attention to the burgeoning New York program, which has grown to 2,000 volunteers in 25 schools. He is helping organizations in other cities start similar efforts. In both New York and Washington, local businesses that participate help pay for the program's staff, including a paid

*Continued on Page 34*

## Reading Program Links Senators, Staff With D.C. Schoolchildren

*Continued from Page 28*

coordinator for each school.

"What you've got to do is motivate the kids ... show them that reading is interesting and enjoyable," Mr. Tannenbaum said in an interview last week. "A lot of these kids are never read to at home. The kids really look forward to seeing the people, and get really devastated when the people don't come."

But the volunteers do come, many of them religiously. Everybody Wins requires reading part-

ners to commit to a full school year of weekly visits with their assigned pupils. Many of the volunteers share a student with a colleague or staff member to ensure that someone is available each week.

### 'A Must'

On the same day of Mr. Jeffords' visit to Brent Elementary, other senators spend time there with their young charges.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., helps his partner, 2nd grader Jasmine Harrison, care-

fully chart the books she has read this year. He recalls proudly the number of new words each selection has challenged her to learn and boasts of her knack for remembering words after seeing them just once.

"I get more out of reading with Jasmine than she does," Sen. Kennedy said. "I am here every Tuesday. It's a must."

Mr. Kennedy's commitment inspired Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, a freshman member from Louisiana, to get involved, too. Ms. Landrieu, a Democrat, said the time she

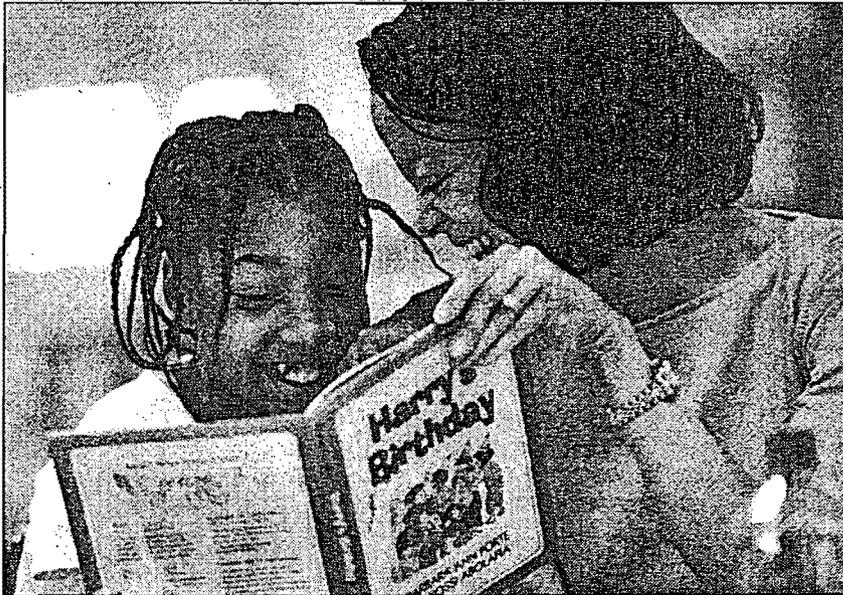
spends in the school has brought new perspective to her work and its impact beyond Capitol Hill.

"I just didn't think I could do this more than once a month," said Ms. Landrieu, who had tapped a staff member to read with her partner, Kishell Alexander, when she could not attend. "But now I would not miss this hour for all the money in Washington. With some things you do on the Hill you never see the result. But I can come here and see Kishell and see her progress weekly."

Kishell, a 1st grader at the school, is shy when she's asked to talk about herself and why she enjoys reading. She covers her mouth with her hand and fixes an embarrassed grin. But when she reads to Ms. Landrieu from one of her favorite books she exudes excitement and confidence. When she stumbles over a difficult word, she turns to her partner for help, then quickly picks up where she left off. "I love to read," the 6-year-old said. "I especially like to read about girls and boys and animals."

# The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1999



**Tiara Hooper, 11, reads to Susan Dunnings at Walker Jones Elementary School. Dunnings, a volunteer with Everybody Wins, a nonprofit reading program, joins Tiara for lunch and reading each week. Tiara is one of 2,800 students in Washington who are paired with mentors through the program. Story, Page B3.**

BY SUSAN BIDDLE — THE WASHINGTON POST

# Cultivating Students' Reading Rituals

*Volunteer Program Recruits Professionals to Help Build Skills in 19 D.C. Schools*

By ELIZABETH KASTOR  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The girl and the woman study the lunch tray. A mound of tired cole slaw. A potato-like substance. Something mysterious hidden beneath a blanket of tomato sauce. A popsicle for dessert.

"Are you going to eat any of this?" the woman asks.

The girl, of course, begins lunch with the popsicle.

It's all part of the affectionate ritual that Angie Hunter and 11-year-old Iesha Little have established over four years of weekly meetings at Walker Jones Elementary in Northwest Washington. Hunter prods the lanky, athletic girl to eat something more than dessert. She reads to Iesha and gets her to read. She tries—in subtle and not-so-subtle ways—to show that Iesha's lunch habits, education and life matter to her.

Iesha, in turn, gives up recess once a week to sit with Hunter and read.

Hunter and Iesha were put together by Everybody Wins, a program that matches children and adults for lunchtime reading lessons. It has been bringing volunteers into Washington schools since 1995 and currently serves about 2,800 youngsters in 19 schools. There are 1,600 reading mentors in 10 schools and a separate group of storytellers who make monthly visits to nine other schools.

At Walker Jones, during a typical get-together, Iesha and Hunter talk about what Iesha did over the weekend. ("I was playing. I had all my sleep.") Then they methodically begin working through a book.

"Or-or . . ." stumbles Iesha.

"Organized," prompts Hunter.

And then, "Sc-sc . . ."

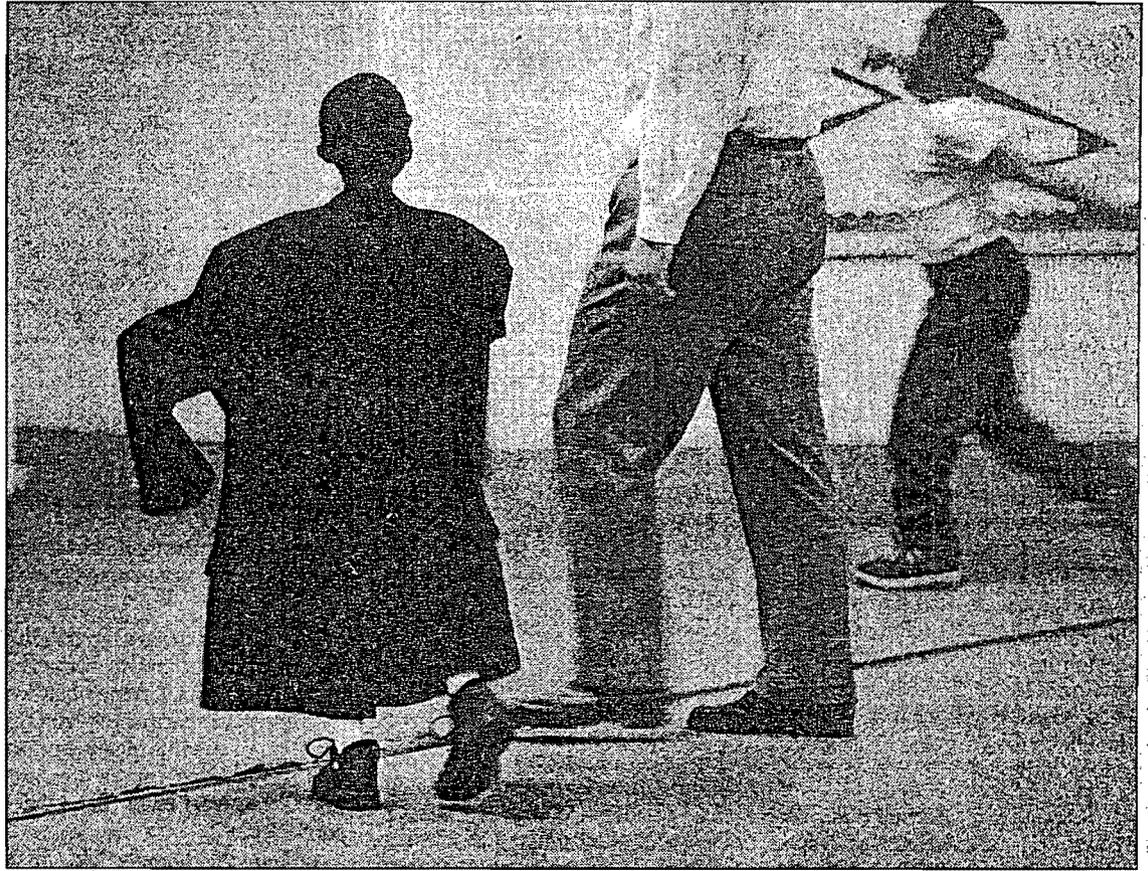
"Owl—you know that word," says Hunter. "Now add 'sc.'"

"Scowl."

Hunter nods. Word by word, they make their way.

Hunter works in human resources at C-Span, one of the first businesses to join Everybody Wins. A devoted reader ("If I have four magazines and a newspaper, I'm in heaven."), she volunteered because "I always felt I wanted to be involved, I should do more."

Everybody Wins, which was launched in New York and has spread to 20 cities, was designed



BY SUSAN BIDDLE—THE WASHINGTON POST

**Marquis Hubert, 8, wears volunteer Marshall Macomber's jacket after a reading session at Walker Jones Elementary.**

for people like Hunter: professionals who want to do something but do not have room in their lives for a major commitment. The reading mentors are, in fact, not allowed to get together with the children outside of the carefully monitored school environment—the charity's liability insurance doesn't cover such meetings.

Still, although the relationships between reading partners are circumscribed, the bonds are strong.

"You get so attached. It's really an extra-special thing for me," says Hunter. "Just to see her reading better, to see her trying. . . . That one-on-one interaction every week, it helps, well, it helps me."

Organizers are certain that the program helps the children as well, and teachers and principals say participants seem to have more regular school attendance and to behave better in class.

More than 40 corporations and organizations, including the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, AT&T and The Washington Post, help Everybody Wins with donations and by encouraging em-

ployees to sign up as reading mentors. Students who need help are referred by teachers, but participation is strictly voluntary.

In each school, Everybody Wins hires a school mother as a part-time coordinator, someone who knows the school and the other parents and can help ease the way for the volunteers. This also has provided new opportunities for the parent-coordinators.

"I've seen women who are unemployed or underemployed who would not even think about public speaking come in, work with companies and individuals and . . . become phenomenal professionals," says Judy Morse, a reading partner who now works with Everybody Wins as a consultant.

Mary Silander, deputy director of Everybody Wins, says the group is working with the U.S. Department of Education on a survey to measure students' changes in such areas as interest in reading, attention span and listening skills. But some of the benefits, Silander thinks, will be hard to quantify.

"What you end up having here,"

she says, "is a special adult in a child's life who comes over once a week and says, 'You're special, you're fantastic, you're reading well.'"

Such programs are valuable supplements to regular school, says Carol Santa, language arts administrator for a school district in Montana and president of the International Reading Association, which promotes literacy.

"Our classes are so big," she says of American schools, "children don't have that much opportunity to work one-on-one. Learning to read is like learning to play basketball or tennis. The more you practice with an expert, the more an expert can help you. . . . It's even more important than reading on your own."

Everybody Wins has a waiting list of schools and children, says Silander, and is seeking more volunteers.

With summer near, the reading will stop for a few months. But come September, Hunter plans to be back at Walker Jones with Iesha. They will be reading.

# The Washington Post

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1999

## Saturday's Child

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS • FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### Books of Boundless Creativity

By MARY QUATTLEBAUM  
Special to The Washington Post

**I**NNOVATIVE art, packed rooms, speeches, applause. The only thing missing from this recent exhibit opening was the art world's ubiquitous wine and cheese. Instead attendees celebrated with juice boxes, pizza and two kinds of gooey cake.

Of course, the age of the featured author/artists may have dictated the choice of fare. Dainty crackers and cheese cubes wouldn't have long sustained the excited crowd of 8- and 9-year-olds pointing out their creations to beaming family and friends.

Through Sept. 6, visitors to the Capital Children's Museum in Northeast also have a chance to view these art books (on display in glass cases) and read these stories (shelved in separate binders). Youngsters inspired by the work of their peers can find an immediate creative outlet through numerous weekend bookmaking workshops and activities. The exhibit, "Celebrating the Art of Books," opens to the public Saturday with an all-day festival. Pappy Drewitt will teach children how to develop characters and illustrate stories, as he does on "Pappyland," his acclaimed television show, seen locally on WNVT and WHUT and nationally on the Learning Channel. Museum staff will offer sessions on cartooning and bookmaking.

The exhibit is the culmination of a year-long pilot headed by the Books Project, an arm of Everybody Wins!, a D.C.-based literacy organization. Third-graders at Gage-Eckington Elementary in Northwest experienced all facets of bookmaking as they got advice from and read the books of local children's authors, illustrators and



From left, Erica Herrion, Jeremiah Reed and Delonte Marshall admire their books at the Capital Children's Museum.

bookbinders; received weekly guidance from Books Project staff and Marquette University interns; and enjoyed daily encouragement from their teacher, Delores Jones.

"This was definitely a community effort, focused on doing," says program manager Jackie Pliskin—adding that the Books Project aims to hone reading and writing skills through student focus on a long-term project.

A sense of the students' creative process is captured well by the exhibit, which shows (through selected drafts, displays of artistic materials and large photographs) how the kids arrived at their final product. In this way, young visitors get a glimpse of the steps they might take in fashioning a shaped book or a certain type of illustration.

More than anything, though, the exhibit celebrates the imaginations of the young author/artists. Stories

range from planning a pizza party to pondering whales. Many experiment exuberantly with the concept of form following function. For example, Matthew Bradley's "Bees Attack the World" sports a yellow-and-black cover shaped like a huge letter "B."

Ordinary objects often are used in extraordinary ways, as with Marquis Lewis's "Space Bears," in which buttons figure as the colored lights of a spaceship. One little girl, Dominique Collins, employs words and pictures to create something absent in her life. Because she couldn't plant roses at home, Dominique says she decided to make her own. A hot-pink fabric flower dominates the illustrations in "The First Rose in My Garden."

The effect of the Books Project is sure to extend beyond the creation of one book. At the opening gala, Christopher Ellison, 9-year-old author of "Ninjas," chatted with me

about his newest work in progress, which features his favorite dinosaurs: Triceratops and Tyrannosaurus rex. No doubt inspired by big brother Christopher, 7-year-old Erica talked about writing her own book about "the animals and plants and trees of the world." And next year, says program manager Pliskin, these Gage-Eckington students, now seasoned authors, will serve as peer consultants to the next crop of novices at another school. In a decade or two—who knows?—we may glimpse their published bylines in a bookstore display or fete them at a reading.

**CELEBRATING THE ART OF BOOKS**—Through Sept. 6 at the Capital Children's Museum, 800 Third St. NE (Metro: Union Station. Exit back of Union Station near tour buses, turn right on H Street, left on Third Street and left into museum). 202/675-4120. Open daily from 10 to 6. \$6 ages 3 and older; \$4 seniors; 2 and younger are

### Creative Tips From the Pros

Even published authors rarely "jot it right" in a first draft. "Revising is so important," says Laura Krauss Melmed, a Washington children's author who assisted the Gage-Eckington students. Before putting pen to paper, kids might try jotting down several ideas before choosing one they particularly love, suggests Melmed. The middle of a story is often a sticking point even for professional writers, she says, advising: "You want to build suspense and really draw the reader in. Don't end the story too suddenly."

Bethesda illustrator Jennifer Barrett O'Connell, also involved with the Books Project, echoes Melmed's emphasis on revision. "I love seeing the world of the story emerge," says O'Connell, who might rework an illustration 20 times before she is satisfied. She advocates experimenting and having fun—and says watercolors, oil pastels, crayons, colored pencils and "found objects" for collages are often great mediums for young illustrators.

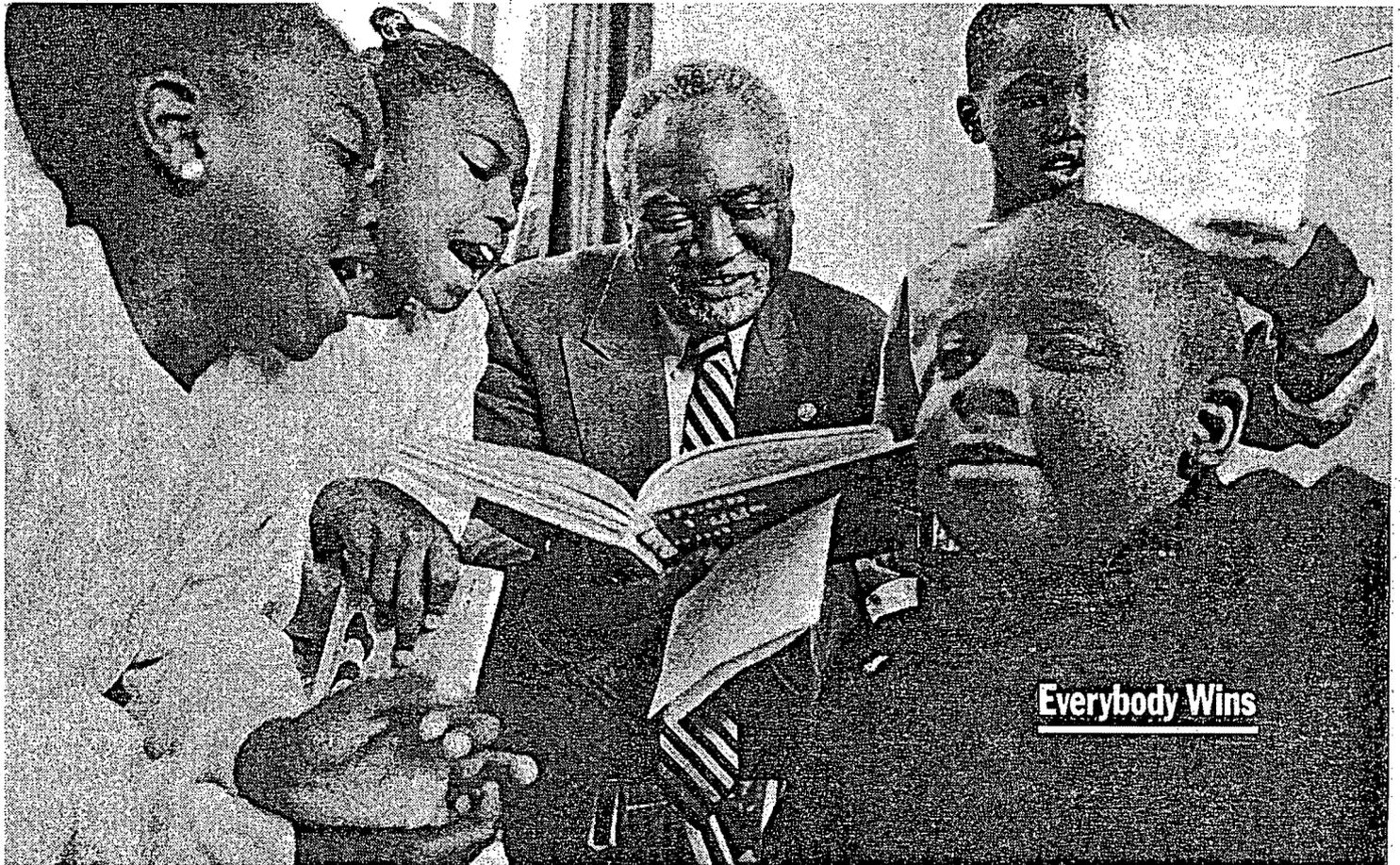
free. In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum offers bookmaking activities and workshops throughout the summer for ages 5 to 10 (unless otherwise noted). Activities are hands-on, and kids can come and go throughout the three-hour programs. Workshops are shorter and led by experts in the field. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

# ROLL CALL Around the Hill

News and personalities in the Capitol community

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1999

PAGE 27



**Everybody Wins**

*Photo by Maya Alleruzzo*

Rep. Danny Davis is one of several Members of Congress who read to elementary school students in the District as part of the Everybody Wins! D.C. literacy program. Last Thursday, Davis was joined by Members and staffers at Tyler Elementary School on the Hill to read to kids and celebrate the late Duke Ellington's 100th birthday.

## Members Reach Out to Kids

By Stacey Zolt

Rep. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) has had a weekly date for the last four years that he hates to miss.

Once a week, LaHood leaves the Capitol to read to fifth-grader Ashley Walton as part of the Everybody Wins! D.C. literacy program.

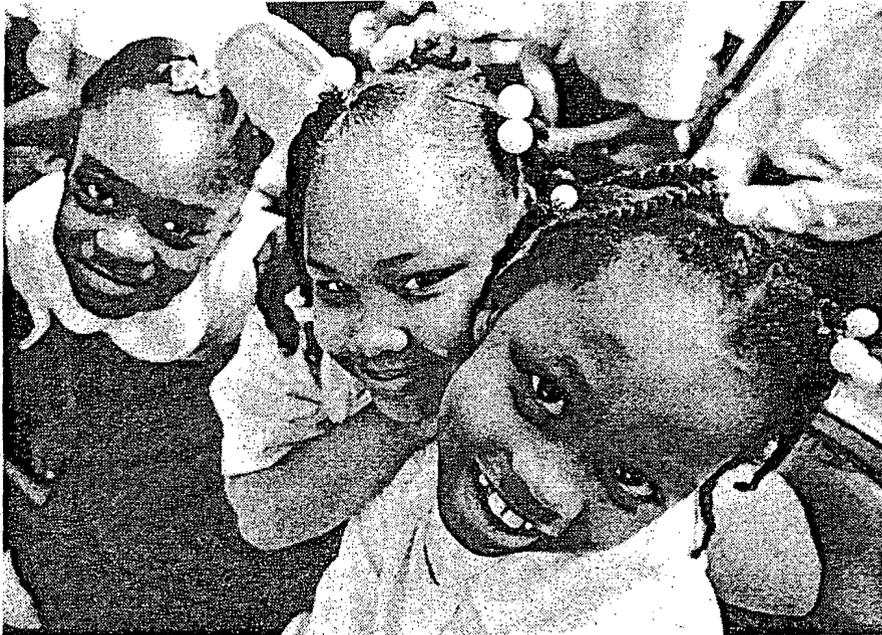
And on Thursday, LaHood, other Members of Congress and their staffs gathered at Tyler Element-

ary School on Capitol Hill to voice their support for children's literacy and celebrate Duke Ellington's 100th birthday.

The Everybody Wins! program matches adult reading mentors with students in 20 public elementary schools in the Washington metropolitan area, bringing them into the schools weekly during the lunch hour to work with students on a long-term basis.

When LaHood first came to Congress in 1995, fellow Illinois native Sen. Paul Simon (D) told him about the Senate's Everybody Wins! program at Robert Brent Elementary School. Soon LaHood built up interest among House Members and staffers and began the House program at Tyler in the fall of 1996.

Continued on page 28



Photos by Maya Alleruzzo

Rep. Ray LaHood has teamed up with Ashley Walton for four years as part of the Everybody Wins! program. Above, three elementary school students are all smiles on the 100th birthday of Duke Ellington.



## Members Boost D.C. Literacy Program for Young Students

Continued from page 27

This year, 150 Tyler students are paired with reading mentors from the House.

LaHood helped organize Thursday's event and is continuously recruiting Members to join the program. He thinks it's important to contribute to the community you live in, even if you only live there part time.

"We come here as representatives of the people in our districts, but more importantly, we become a part of the D.C. community," LaHood said. "This is something that's easy to work into your schedule."

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Reps. Jim Moran (D-Va.), Danny Davis (D-Ill.), John Boehner (R-Ohio) and others were matched with Tyler students for the day to celebrate the program's success.

The mentoring aspect of the program, built by the adult reader working with the same student over an extended period of time, is one of the reasons LaHood believes it works.

"This is really about building relation-

ships," LaHood said, adding that he considers it a privilege to have worked with Walton for the past four years.

LaHood's scheduler, Joan Mitchell, fills in for LaHood when he can't make his weekly date. "She's a wonderful student," Mitchell said. "She really likes poetry and mysteries."

Mitchell said when the program first began they had to bring in their own books, but as the Everybody Wins! program expanded, its reading collection grew as well.

Davis said Everybody Wins! "is the kind of thing that I'm interested in and do quite frequently."

Davis himself attended a one-room schoolhouse in southeastern Arkansas, in the delta near the Mississippi River. With the demanding harvesting schedule, Davis' school was only open for five months out of the year. For the Congressman, reading was a supplement during the many months spent tending to the crops.

"One of the reasons I like reading so much is reading probably did [the most] to help me

reach whatever point I am at in life," Davis said.

Rep. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), who is a regular reader at Tyler, sat in the front row with his reading partner, fourth-grader Floyd DeWitt, reading "Tikki Tikki Tembo."

Playing with the Congressman's beeper, DeWitt talks shyly of his favorite book, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," and his upcoming debut on Capitol Hill when the program participants visit on May 21.

Burr is also excited to show his little buddy his Congressional digs.

"Congress doesn't mean anything to them today, but as they get older that meaning will become more defined," Burr said. "At this age kids aren't that inquisitive about what goes on [on] Capitol Hill but they're more inquisitive about why someone they don't know is here."

Clearly, though, the kids were excited about

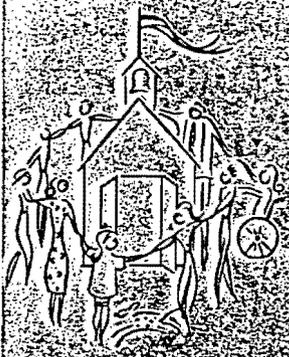
the Members' visit. Many romped about the room carrying "House Mouse, Senate Mouse" books.

Norton encouraged the students to take pride in their education, saying that Ellington — and others great Americans — were products of the D.C. public school system.

"[Ellington] went to the same public school system as you go to now," Norton cheered with her characteristic zeal.

Facts distributed by the Everybody Wins! program show the dropout rate for D.C. public schools is between 40 and 60 percent, and D.C. has the lowest levels of literacy proficiency in the United States.

This year, Everybody Wins! will serve more than 2,800 children in the D.C. metropolitan area.



# Community Update

No. 66  
April 1999  
U.S. Department of  
Education

## U.S. Department of Education Partners with Everybody Wins! Literacy Program

### An Ode to Power Lunch

One hour is not enough  
For us to do all our stuff  
But when it's done, we still had fun.  
*(written by an EW! third grader)*

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley and the U.S. Department of Education have established a partnership with Everybody Wins! (EW!) DC, the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in Washington, D.C. Privately funded and not for profit, EW! DC promotes children's literacy and a love of learning through shared reading experiences with caring adults. During the 1998-99 school year, EW! DC plans to serve over 2,800 students in 20 schools in the Washington metropolitan area.

EW! DC offers two programs, "Power Lunch" and "StoryTime." The Power Lunch program is a unique literacy and mentoring activity that partners adults with public elementary school children to stimulate their interest in reading and writing. Once a week, volunteer reading mentors go to local schools to meet with their student partners and share conversation and good books during the lunch hour. The Power Lunch program benefits children academically and socially by bringing a diverse selection of children's literature into the schools and providing students with caring adult readers who act as informal mentors and positive role models. Most of the volunteers continue to read with the same student partners for several years, turning "power lunches" into "powerful relationships."

"We are delighted to have the Department of Education as a partner in the Power Lunch program," said Joanie Chase, EW! executive director. "We're so glad we can work together to foster the love of reading and learning with our children."

The StoryTime program brings storytellers to elementary schools that otherwise receive very few special enrichment opportunities. Once a month, storytellers, local authors, and other performers visit the schools and bring the magic of storytelling to groups of children. Often the performances are interactive, calling upon children to play musical instruments, make sound effects, or dance. The stories always ends happily and each student leaves with a new book. For more information about EW! DC, call (202) 624-3957 or visit <http://www.erols.com/ebodywin/>. 

# The Washington Post

Saturday, March 7, 1998

*Mark Shields*

## No Spin Necessary

At lunchtime most weekdays when Congress is in session, senators who are in Washington and candidates for reelection frequently can be found paying rapt attention to somebody who, if pleased with and by a senator, can provide "generous" help to the senator's reelection campaign coffers. Some people call this activity "constituent outreach" or "donor maintenance."

On a recent Tuesday, Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.), who is running for reelection in November, scheduled his lunch to huddle in a very private way with Dayvie Paschall. Dodd was listening carefully to Paschall, who runs no political action committee and who has never made a political contribution, but who was reading to the senator. Dayvie Paschall is 12 years old and a sixth-grader at Robert Brent, a public elementary school in Southeast Washington.

Just a few feet away from Dodd and Dayvie in the school library sat Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R-Ark.) with Michael McNair, 8, a charismatic second-grader who explained the meaning of "gravity" to a visitor. "Without gravity, you would go straight up to the ceiling."

Warning: Anybody looking for one more diatribe against Washington as the morally bankrupt home office of relentlessly evil politicians, the kind who would steal a hot stove and go back for the smoke, will be disappointed. This is a positive Washington story without any "spin." This is a story about people, some of whom are important, taking the time to make a difference—one-on-one—with Washington schoolkids.

Dodd and Hutchinson, along with several of their Senate colleagues, come weekly to the Robert Brent school to a program called "Everybody Wins!" which is devoted to promoting children's literacy and the love of reading. The program's centerpiece is a weekly one-on-one reading experience with an adult volunteer the child knows and who knows the child.

On this Tuesday, Jasmine Harrison, a 7-year-old second-grader who is finishing "Amelia Bedelia," was telling her reading partner, Ted, about the jester—in the hospital—who recovered his gift to make people laugh. Harrison's regular reading partner and friend is also the senior senator from Massachusetts.

"Everybody Wins!" was brought to Washington in 1995 through the support of Sen. Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.) and Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.). After reading and listening to the "Treasure of Skeleton Reef" with his friend Sherryl on Tuesday, Jeffords explained, "I love these kids and the opportunity this program provides them to gain a love of reading."

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), is a regular at the school—along with colleagues Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Richard Bryan (D-Nev.). In another Southeast Washington school, Tyler Elementary, U.S. House members and their staff, led by Rep. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.), are in their third year of the reading program.

Each week in 10 D.C. elementary schools, more than 1,200 adult volunteers give up their lunch hour to read one-on-one in hopes of giving the city's youngsters a better chance. This is a privately funded, nonprofit program, which means conservatives ought to approve. It is a simple program that, according to teachers, works. That ought to appeal to liberals and conservatives.

These elected officials and congressional staff members—and all the other volunteers—do not seek nor have they earned canonization. But they have earned our attention and our respect. They are not plaster saints. But they are—far removed from TV cameras, consultants and photo ops—making a real and large difference in children's lives. And all of them are doing it in Washington on their own time, without applause.

How about that, Washington bashers?

# ROLL CALL

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998

## BOOK ENDS



*Photo by Shana Raab*

Sen. Jim Jeffords shares a laugh with Ted Kennedy's reading partner, seven-year-old Jazzmin Harrison, to celebrate the conclusion of a yearlong program — Everybody Wins! — in which 200 students at Robert Brent Elementary School were matched with Senators and aides who read to them during lunchtime. Ten Senators and over 200 staffers turned out for the celebration.

# The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1998

## **Lawmakers, Students Finish Reading Program**

Ten U.S. senators and their staffs celebrated the completion of a lunch-time reading partnership program yesterday by giving 200 students from Robert Brent Elementary School a tour of their Capitol Hill offices.

The senators, including James M. Jeffords (R-Vt.), Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.), and staff volunteers have visited the Capitol Hill school once a week this school year to read with student partners. The program is sponsored by Everybody Wins!, a nonprofit group that promotes children's literacy through shared reading experiences with adults.

Each week, more than 1,200 program volunteers, working at 11 public elementary schools in the Washington area, spent their lunch hours reading one-on-one with children who had been designated as their partners. The program will resume in the fall.

# The Washington Post

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1999

## THE REGION

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### **At Rally, Leaders Promote Mentoring**

Area congressional leaders, school officials and sports celebrities, as well as D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) touted the importance of mentoring at a back-to-school pep rally yesterday for Everybody Wins!, the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in the Washington area.

The rally at Walker Jones Elementary School in the District kicked off a new campaign to promote literacy and volunteerism in elementary schools.

The Everybody Wins! in 2000 Campaign will focus on bringing adult volunteers into schools to read one-on-one with students one day a week for an hour. The organization matches students throughout the year with local and federal officials, corporate and business leaders and others to promote and celebrate a love of books.

# The Hill

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

## EVERYBODY WINS



MEREDITH LEIMAN

*Sen. Chuck Robb (D-Va.) is introduced to Ashley Stevenson, 7, by his wife, Linda Robb. Mrs. Robb volunteers to read to student in the "Everybody Wins" reading campaign. The group's year of reading partnerships ended with a celebration Tuesday.*

April 24, 1998



Stephen  
Kiernan

## An hour a week to read

**S**herryl Grant is a fourth-grader at Robert Brent Elementary School.

It's not in Vermont. It's in Washington, D.C. — the city so mismanaged the federal government had to take it over. District schools are notoriously weak, which is bad news for Sherryl.

The good news is that someone from outside the school comes to help her every week. He's a busy guy, grey-haired, suit-wearing. He has no shortage of demands on his time.

Yet he comes, every week, to the library at noon. They both grab a school lunch. Then they sit down together, and read.

This might sound like a minor thing, unimportant in a school system with decaying buildings, violence in the hallways and on the streets.

The opposite is true. The Number One predictor of academic success is that children have been read to. Ideally it is a parent, starting before the child can speak. But even if the reading doesn't begin till fourth grade, there are innumerable benefits.

The child receives uninterrupted attention. She also develops patience, an appreciation for language, an understanding of order that results from the sequential nature of books.

The adult gains, too: contact with a young person's energy and imagination, a reminder of what it was like to struggle with words, the reinforcement of how much a child values reliable adult attention.

So this man visits every week. Even if he has just finished work in the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. Even if he is scheduled for a major vote that afternoon.

Sherryl's reader is U.S. Sen. James Jeffords. He is a participant in Everybody Wins, a program invented by New York executive Arthur Tannenbaum. The project links successful adults with children for mentoring, support, and foremost, reading. New York's program now boasts 2,000 volunteers in 25 schools.

Jeffords' staff says he is devoted to his weekly lunch with Sherryl. "It was very difficult getting here today," he told Education Week last month, "but this hour is very relaxing for me. This is the most rewarding."

Jeffords is far from the only person on Capitol Hill in this program. His Democratic counterpart on the Labor Committee, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, reads with second-grader Jasmine Harrison. U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, a Louisiana Democrat, reads with first-grader Kishell Alexander.

In all, 180 of the 220 students at Brent Elementary are linked with a reader through Everybody Wins. Other schools benefit, too, because more than 400 congressional staffers also volunteer with the program. Many Washington organizations, including the media, also participate.

There's a clear gain in all of this. Regardless of a person's political ideology or party, nothing provides guidance on issues better than spending time with the people affected by government's action — or inaction — on those issues.

Jeffords' work on education, his pet interest, can only be improved by spending time in a Washington public school, eating the food, breathing the air, hearing hallway noises of laughter and dispute, and spending a quiet hour in the company of a 10-year-old girl who knows only that life.

Further, if he and hundreds of other people in high-powered jobs can find the time to sit with a child and a book, then maybe ordinary folks can, too — whether working with strangers or reading to their own children.

Children will win if they do. The adults will win, too.

Society will win the most, because a child who succeeds in school will stay there, earning a chance at a better job and better life in the years ahead. The nation's jails are full of people who never learned to read, never finished school, because no one cared enough to sit down with them, week after week, and help.

How about you? Got an hour?

*"Close to Home" is a weekly commentary on public affairs. To reach Stephen Kiernan, call 248-1000.*

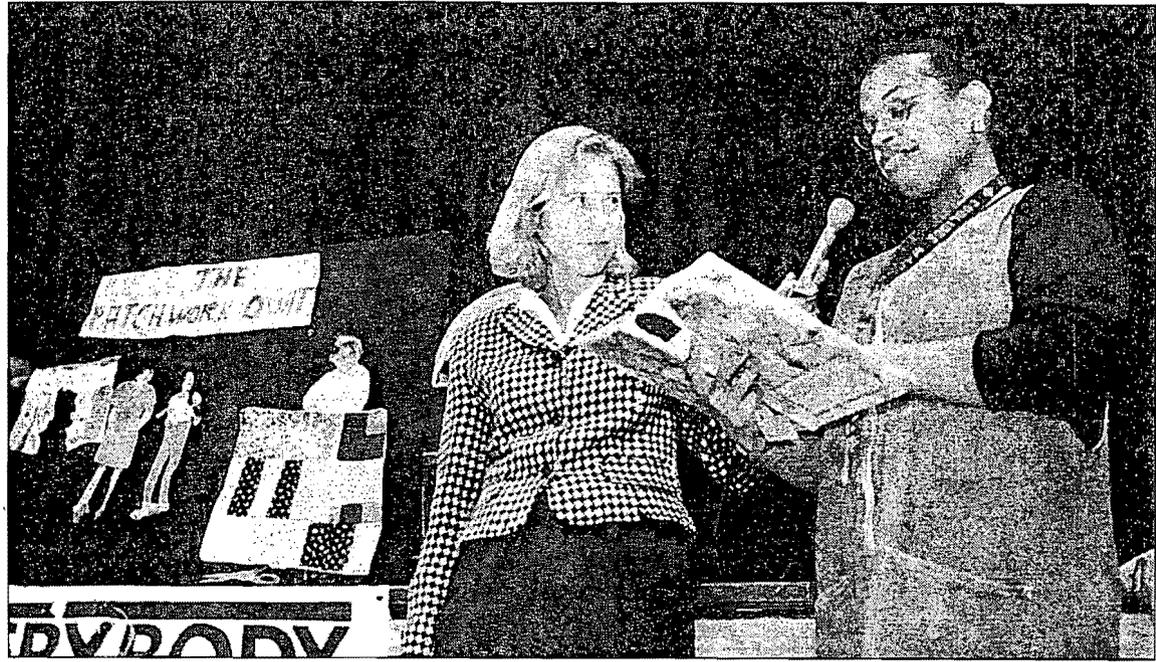


Photo by Karen Ballard/The Washington Times

Joi Isler — with microphone help from Joanie Chase — reads a story at Bowen Elementary.

## Quilting bonds parents, kids

By Susan Ferrechio  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

William Long doesn't know much about making a quilt, but if that's what it takes to spend time with his son Kevin, 8, he'll gladly snip, stitch and glue fabric in a classroom at Bowen Elementary in Southwest.

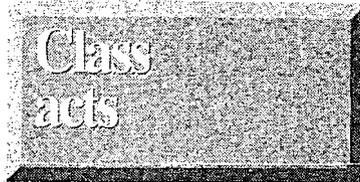
"It's creative, and I love being here doing stuff with him," Mr. Long said.

Their "quilt patch", which includes the images of a crucifix and a basketball, will eventually be sewn to many others created by student-parent teams trying to depict what is meaningful to them.

Mr. Long and Kevin were among nearly 100 students and parents who learned about storytelling and quilt-making recently at the school.

The program is sponsored by Everybody Wins, a privately funded program that organizes teams of federal workers who read to D.C. school children at lunchtime.

While the group usually works with children during lunchtime,



organizers started the evening quilt-making program so that parents who work during the day could get involved.

"Television has taken over a lot of the storytelling that parents and grandparents used to do," said Barbara D'Emilio, a program coordinator. "We strongly believe parents are the most important teachers and we use storytelling to get them more involved."

Everybody Wins will hold three quilt-making workshops at different city schools before sewing all the patches together.

Parents and students are supposed to tell stories about themselves on the patch, much the way many peoples' ancestors used quilts to pass along family heritage.

Zarnita Marshall tried to fashion a heart out of a piece of rib-

bon while balancing 4-month-old Marshae on her lap. Daughters Jasmine, 8, and Dominek, 6, cut and glued colorful fabric to the patch.

"This workshop means unity within your family," Miss Marshall said. "When you sit here and create with your child, you find out what they're really thinking. This is how they express themselves."

About 1,200 students are served at 10 schools by Everybody Wins, which has just about as many reading volunteers.

The workshop also teaches parents to create "books" with their own stories and poems to pass along to their children.

Everybody Wins pays one parent at each school to coordinate lunchtime reading volunteers and keep attendance high at the nighttime programs, like the quilting class.

• *Class Acts* appears weekly. Send news of outstanding teachers and students in the area to *Class Acts*, c/o Metropolitan Times, The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.

# HILL RAG

DECEMBER 1997

## **Everybody Wins! literacy program begins at Brent Elementary**

On Thursday, November 6, a group of U. S. Senators joined the students of Brent Elementary School to kick off their third year of participation in Everybody Wins!, a privately funded, nonprofit organization devoted to promoting children's literacy and love of learning through weekly one-on-one reading experiences with adult volunteers. Known as the Power Lunch program, Senate members and staff have been reading with the students of Brent since March of 1995, thanks to



SEN. MARY LANDRIEU (D-LA) GETTING TO KNOW HER STUDENT READING PARTNER, KISHELL ALEXANDER, A 1ST GRADER AT BRENT.



SEN. TIM HUTCHINSON (R-AR) READING WITH HIS STUDENT READING PARTNER SECOND GRADER MICHAEL McNAIR.

Senator Jim Jeffords (R-VT), who brought the program to Washington from New York, where it was created.

Jeffords was joined by fellow Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Chris Dodd (D-CT), Tim Hutchinson (R-AR), Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Richard Bryan (D-NV). The Senators met with their student reading partners and then sat down to enjoy a good book together. When the lunch bell rang, no one was in a hurry to leave. Each Senator will share their student with a staff member and read at Brent throughout the school year.

Another school on Capitol Hill participating in Everybody Wins! is Tyler Elementary. The U. S. House of Representatives adopted the school in 1995. House members and staff will begin their third year of reading with the students of Tyler in early December. Everybody Wins! has expanded into 10 elementary schools in the Washington Metropolitan area and impacts 1,200 at-risk students. For more information about the program, call 202/624-3957.



Photos by Bert V. Goulat/The Washington Times

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy helps Jasmine Harrison with a tough word, and Sen. Tim Hutchinson reads with Michael McNair.

# Legislators boost local literacy

## Everybody Wins in this effort

By Brett Marcy  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Ten senators took a break from Capitol Hill yesterday to help local elementary school students improve their reading skills.

The senators joined volunteers from more than 40 corporations and organizations for the Everybody Wins program at the Robert Brent Elementary School in Southeast.

The program matches elementary schoolchildren with adults so that they can develop literacy skills through weekly one-on-one reading sessions.

"I love kids, and I realize that, here in the District, we have a serious problem with young people not having enough opportunities to learn," said Sen. Jim Jeffords, Vermont Republican.

Mr. Jeffords brought the Everybody Wins program to the District in 1995 after one of his aides told him of its success in New York.

This is the program's third

year in the District, with more than 1,200 students participating from 10 schools.

Everybody Wins is a privately funded, nonprofit organization, devoted to promoting children's literacy and love of learning through shared reading experiences with adults.

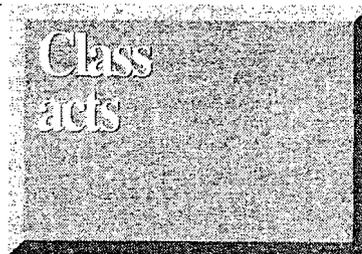
"We see major differences in these kids in their comprehension and behavior," said Mary Salander, deputy director of Everybody Wins.

Mrs. Salander said they plan to expand the program across the entire D.C. metropolitan area, but at a gradual pace.

"We don't want to lose the quality of the program," she said.

The senators met their student partners for the first time yesterday during their orientation into the program. After a bit of conversation, the senator-student pairs began reading their books.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, and his student, 7-year-old Jasmine Harrison, took turns reading



their book. As Jasmine read, Mr. Kennedy carefully coached her on the tougher words.

"I come from a family who are strong readers," said Mr. Kennedy. "I think learning to read is something that has to come from the child's being encouraged. Perhaps we have some impact on that."

"I think I'm going to have a great time," said Jasmine. "I think [Sen. Kennedy] is nice."

It is that enthusiasm that Everybody Wins is hoping to use to improve student literacy throughout the city.

"The main thrust of the program is the idea of reading for pleasure," said Mrs. Salander.

She said the program has received donations of more than 3,000 books, and a local law firm

recently donated office space to the organization. But, Mrs. Salander said time is the most important gift.

Along with Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Jeffords, eight other senators also donated their time. They are Sens. Christopher Dodd, Connecticut Democrat; Byron Dorgan, North Dakota Democrat; Tim Hutchinson, Arkansas Republican; Richard Bryan, Nevada Democrat; Mary Landrieu, Louisiana Democrat; Tom Harkin, Iowa Democrat; Richard Durbin, Illinois Democrat; and Sam Brownback, Kansas Republican.

"We get a good deal more out of this than the children do," Mr. Kennedy said.

The children might disagree. "I like to read with a partner because I get to learn new words," said 9-year-old Crystal Drakeford.

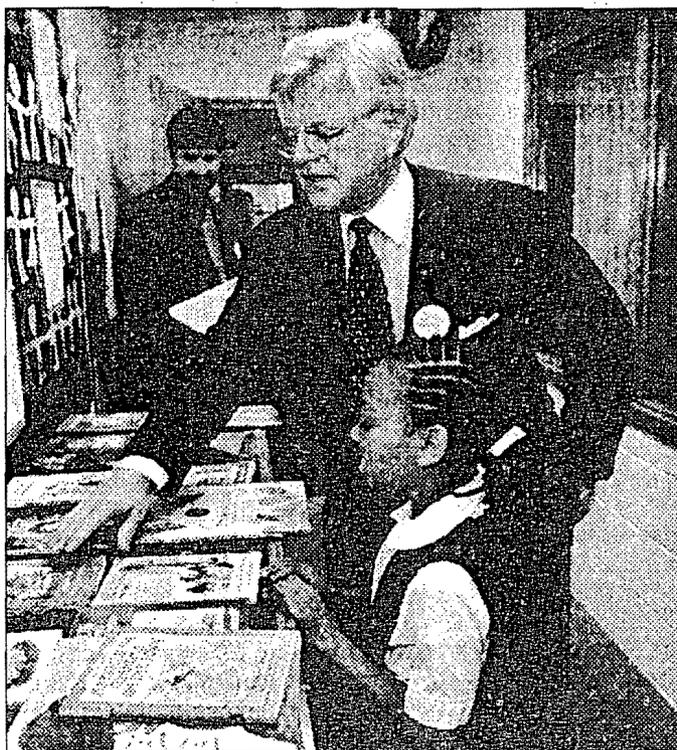
Class Acts appears weekly. Send news of outstanding teachers and students in the area to Class Acts, c/o Metropolitan Times, The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1997

HITTING THE BOOKS



PHOTOS BY DUDLEY M. BROOKS—THE WASHINGTON POST

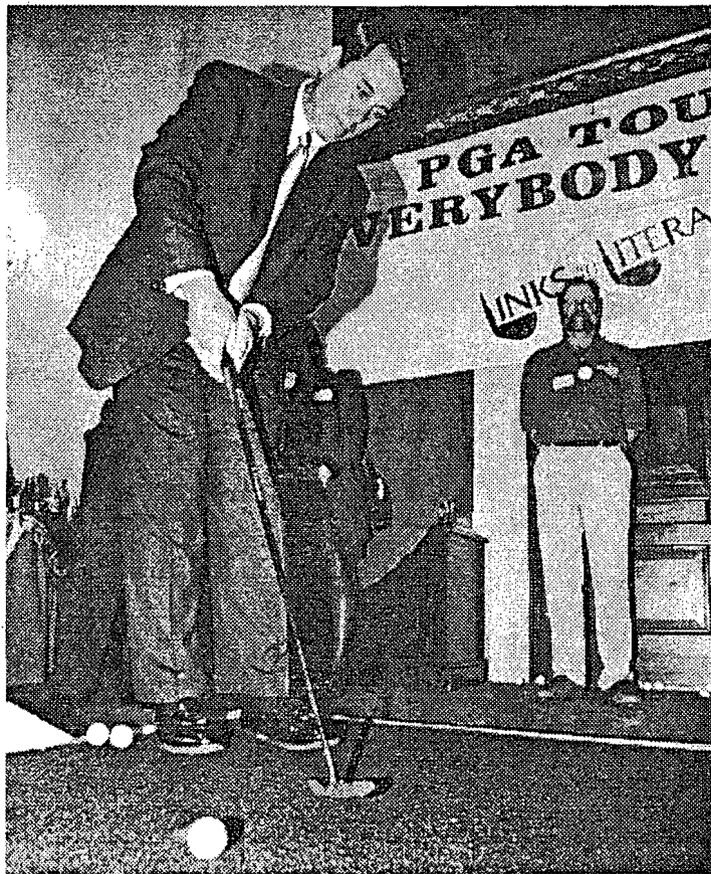


As part of the Everybody Wins program, above, Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) reads with Pierre Jefferson while Durbin's executive assistant, Kathy Anderson, watches. At left, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) picks out a book to read with Jasmin Harrison. Both children are students at Brent Elementary School in Southeast Washington.

# ROLL CALL

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1998

## TIGER OF THE HOUSE



*Photo by Rebecca Roth*

Rep. John Boehner lines one up at the "Putt-Putt for Literacy" event he hosted in the Cannon Building, benefiting three Capitol Hill elementary schools, as a prelude to a March 3 PGA Tour charity fundraiser.

# The Washington Post

Thursday, February 26, 1998

## Putt 'Er There

The problem: how to design a putting green that makes it somewhat difficult for members of Congress to sink a shot but not so challenging that they are publicly humiliated.

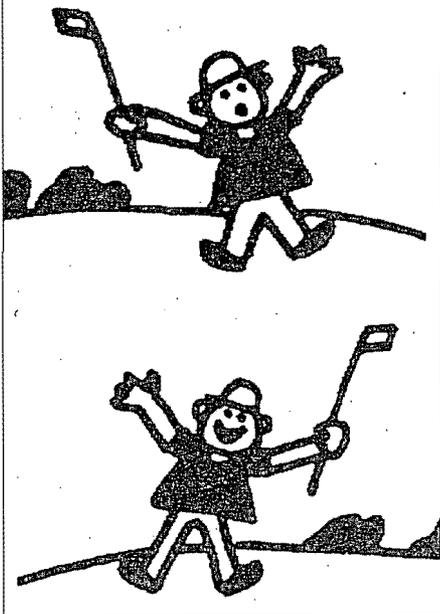
Solution A: Install a very large cup. (Very funny.)

Solution B: Install a green that is four feet wide and 18 feet long on a completely flat surface. (Very good.)

"The putt is probably 18 feet. That's a little bit of a challenge but it's not a giveaway," said Doug Tretien, owner of Personal Putting Greens in Frederick, who brought his artificial grass to the Cannon Building on Capitol Hill last night.

The golf gambit was sponsored by Everybody Wins to thank 13 lawmakers, 500 congressional staffers and major corporate donors for helping the three-year-old literacy program. Some 1,200 adult volunteers are paired with 1,200 students from 10 area schools. Each week, the grown-ups and children quietly savor books together.

The top political putters were Reps. Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.), Chet Edwards (D-Tex.) and John Boehner (R-Ohio). Each won a box of books to donate to the schools where their staffers read.

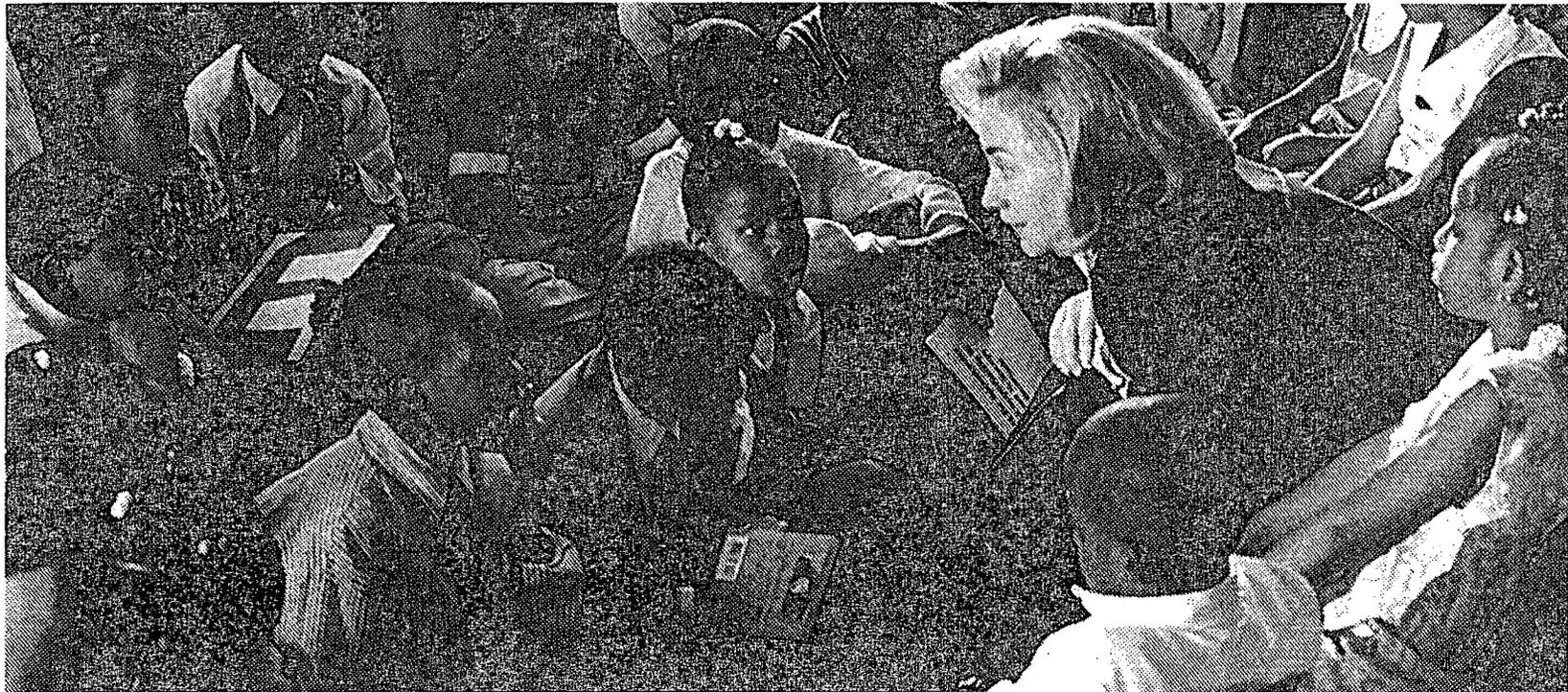


# The Boston Globe

November 29, 1997

## Senator Kennedy takes time for literacy

Senator Edward M. Kennedy has a new date on his weekly schedule each Tuesday – an hour with 7-year-old Jasmine Harrison. Three weeks ago, Kennedy and other senators went to Brent Elementary School on Capitol Hill to highlight the Everybody Wins program. The private nonprofit program, introduced in the District of Columbia two years ago by Senator James Jeffords, the Vermont Republican, matches elementary school students with adults for one-on-one reading sessions to improve literacy skills. Jasmine told the Washington Times that the senator was “nice.”



Paul Hoscros/The New York Times

### **Read Any Good Books?**

Hillary Rodham Clinton visited John Tyler Elementary School in Washington yesterday to help promote Everybody Wins, a private, nonprofit organization devoted to promoting children's literacy. The

program, which was founded in New York City in 1991 by Arthur Tannenbaum, an executive, seeks volunteers go to a local school to read with a student for one lunch hour a week.