



NEWS FROM THE TRENTON LITERACY MOVEMENT, INC. FAMILY RESOURCES EDITION



OUR MISSION

To enable students in Trenton public elementary schools to read at grade level by 3rd grade.

The Trenton Literacy Movement, Inc., (TTLM) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our Family Resources Edition of the Trenton Literacy Movement Newsletter

In this issue, we focus on family engagement including resources to support families in school, at home, and in our communities.

We also pay special tribute to the dedicated first-line workers, our teachers, during the first week in May, which was **Teacher Appreciation Week**. We know that without them we could not make the progress that our children so richly deserve.

We take time to say thank you to the amazing teachers who shape our lives, who have inspired doctors before they knew they could become doctors, who inspired the Tuskegee Airmen before they ever took flight, who told me, a young Doug Palmer that he could become the first African American Mayor of Trenton, New Jersey and serve 5 terms. Educators like the late Dr. Copeland, former Superintendent of Trenton Public Schools, and our fellow board members, retired educators, Dr. Cassandra Holcomb, and longtime educator and administrator, Gloria Jean Tunstall. These educators, along with our newest board members Yazminelly (Yaz) Gonzalez and Eris Tunstall and so many more, continue to lay the foundation and plant the seeds that inspire the next generation of leaders.

Thank you all for your amazing service to our children.

Douglas H. Palmer
Chairman of the Board. The Trenton Literacy Movement, Inc.

TO OUR TEACHERS

I have served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent over a 43-year period in the Trenton public school system. I know first-hand how challenging it is in normal conditions, now we layer on top of that, instruction in a COVID 19 environment. Despite all these insurmountable odds and unique challenges, you have found a way to inspire, motivate, encourage and produce positive outcomes for our children.

Those of us on the board of the Trenton Literacy Movement have taken notice of your dedication, your passion, and your commitment to all of our students.

We stand to salute you and to express our gratitude for your service.

From all of us, we say thank you for all you do for our children!!!

Gloria Jean Tunstall
Vice President, Board of Trustees, The Trenton Literacy Movement, Inc.





A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES, FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MISSION

Trenton Public Schools Office of Student Services, Family & Community

Engagement seeks to establish strong partnerships with families by increasing parents' voices and visibility in their child (ren)'s educational process.

Our school community is driven to boost opportunities to share educational resources, life skill tools, and services to expand students' socio-emotional, economic, academic, and overall school experience.

La Oficina de Servicios Estudiantiles, Participación Familiar y Comunitaria de las Escuelas Públicas de Trenton busca establecer asociaciones sólidas con las familias al aumentar las voces y la visibilidad de los padres en el proceso educativo de sus hijos.

Nuestra comunidad escolar está impulsada a impulsar las oportunidades para compartir recursos educativos, herramientas de habilidades para la vida y servicios para expandir la experiencia socioemocional, económica, académica y escolar en general de los estudiantes.

Contact: Denise Kreiss, MSW
Parent Coordinator/Homeless Liaison
Trenton Public Schools

FOR PARENT CONNECT UPDATES

VISIT: WWW.TRENTONK12.ORG/CONNECT.ASPX

TEL. 609-656-4900 X5670

MOBILE. 609-712-6152

[EMAIL](#) | [SERVICE REQUEST FORM](#)

[PARENT CONNECT](#) | [TWITTER](#) | [FACEBOOK](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#) | [YOUTUBE](#) | [LINKEDIN](#)

NJPSAFEA

Thriving Trenton: Simple Strategies for Less Stress

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Join us for the Virtual Healing Centered Engagement Family Series

To register for any of these FREE educational sessions, open the flyer on the links to register to receive a Zoom link.

[CLICK HERE TO OPEN FLYER \(ENGLISH & SPANISH\)](#)

- Understanding Stress – May 17, 2022; 5:30pm – 6:30pm
 - Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/trentonstress1>
- Being a Stress Detective – May 24, 2022; 5:30pm – 6:30pm
 - Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/trentonstress2>
- Reframing Behavior – May 31, 2022; 5:30pm – 6:30pm
 - <https://tinyurl.com/trentonbehavior>
- Strategies for Less Stress – June 7, 2022; 5:30pm – 6:30pm
 - <https://tinyurl.com/trentonlessstress>

Recordatorio para que se Úna a nosotros para la próxima serie Virtual Healing Centered Engagement

Family (Trenton próspero: estrategias simples para menos estrés). Para inscribirse en cualquiera de las series educativas, abra el folleto en el siguiente enlace, haga clic en la serie de deseos y regístrese para recibir el enlace de Zoom.

[HAGA CLIC AQUÍ PARA ABRIR EL FOLLETO \(INGLÉS Y ESPAÑOL\)](#)

- Entendiendo el estrés - 19/5/22; 5:30 - 6:30
 - <https://tinyurl.com/estrestrenton>
- Siendo un detective del estrés - 26/5/22; 5:30 - 6:30
 - <https://tinyurl.com/detectivetrenton>
- Reenfocando el comportamiento - 2/6/22; 5:30 - 6:30
 - <https://tinyurl.com/Reenfocandotrenton>

Reading Is Fundamental

RESOURCES FROM OUR PARTNERS AT READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

Reading Is Fundamental is committed to a literate America by inspiring a passion for reading among all children, providing quality content to make an impact and engaging communities in the solution to give every child the fundamentals for success. As the nation's largest children's literacy non-profit,

**Reading Is Fundamental maximizes every contribution
to ensure all children have the ability to read and succeed**

TIPS FOR FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Read aloud to your child every day

- Read to babies even before they can talk
- Let your child see and touch the book
- Play with voices and the sounds of words
- For a sample read-aloud [please click here](#)



Create a print rich-home environment

- Have a wide variety of books available to children
- Encourage children to look at books on their own
- Set aside a family reading area and a family reading time

Use grocery shopping to encourage reading and writing

- Have children help you search for specific brands
- Use the aisle markers with your child to find items
- Match coupons to products
- Have children write out grocery lists (if age appropriate)

Cook with your child to develop literacy

- Show your child how to read a recipe
- Read the labels on ingredients together
- Make a family cookbook of favorite recipes
- Develop oral literacy by talking about family recipes and cooking tips



Point out environmental print to children

- Note signage during nature walks and other outings
- Discuss logos
- Ask children to point out print outside of the home environment

Tell stories together

- Talk together about your family history
- Look at old vacation photos and discuss your memories of the trip
- Record your storytelling
- Create family photo albums and have your child help craft the captions

Sing and rhyme with your child

- Choose songs with rhymes and word play
- Play rhyming games with your child such as what other words sound like "honey"?
- Challenge your child to sing or say rhymes as fast as they can and don't forget to laugh if the results are silly



TIPS FOR TEACHERS

As a teacher, you will be building relationships with both your students and their families. The child's future school success will be dependent on their time in the classroom and at home. Clear communication with families can build support for and strengthen the important work that you are doing in the classroom.

COMMUNICATING WITH FAMILIES

Benefits of Communicating with Families

- They will have a better understanding of how you are helping to prepare their children for success in school.
- They will be aware of their children's progress in developing the building blocks of learning
- They will learn ways in which they can help their children at home.
- You will have a better understanding of the background and experiences of the children.
- The children will see that the adults in their life care about them and are interested in their learning and development.

Ways to Communicate with Families

- Engage them in conversation when they drop off and pick up their children from school.
- Send home newsletters, notes, or emails to inform them of what their children are learning in your classroom.
- Schedule regular meetings to let them know how their children are progressing. Make sure you highlight their areas of strength and suggest ways to improve.

Teacher Talk: Examples of Good Communication

- You can help Roberto practice his "R" by writing his name and coming up with other fun words that start with the letter "R."
- Here's a book that Lucas was interested in today. It is about animals. Maybe you can go to the library and get another book about animals. You can also take this book and read it and talk about which animals he likes the best and why.
- As you know, today we went on a field trip to the grocery store. Ask Maurice to tell you some of the things we did.
- Jason's doing a great job of learning his letters. Maybe he can show you tonight how many he knows!
- Amanda is having a little trouble talking about the stories that I've been reading to the class. It would probably help if you could ask her to talk about the stories you read to her at home. When you've finished reading a book, you could say something like, "Amanda, can you tell your teddy bear what that story was about?"



Reading Is Fundamental

TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Children are motivated to become readers when their teachers and families work together.
Here are some ways that teachers can reach out to families and forge partnerships with parents.

ENCOURAGING FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Recognize and Address the Obstacles to Family Involvement

- Schedule meetings at times that are convenient to working parents
- Avoid using educational jargon

Value Each Family's Unique Goals for their Children

- Listen and show that you value their opinion
- Consider sending home an interest survey or interview each family to understand their culture, tradition, special holidays observed, etc. As an extension try to stock your classroom library with books that mirror the diverse families in your classroom. Invite students and/or their families to present on what makes them special.
- Find out what you can do to support family reading times.

ADDRESS LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND SHOW RESPECT FOR EVERY FAMILY'S CULTURE AND HOME LANGUAGE

- Translate parent education materials and school communications into families' first languages
- Learn to speak, read, and write a few words in the language(s) children speak at home. Invite families to share the rhymes, songs, poems, and stories that are part of the cultural traditions.
- Have a resource person available who can translate spoken information to families
- To request a translator from the U.S. Department of Education visit
https://www.lep.gov/interp_translation/trans_interpret.html

ESTABLISH TRUST

- Make it a habit to communicate with families regularly
- Avoid calling in parents only for problems, try to give positive feedback as often as possible
- Hold meetings in neutral settings, such as resource centers
- Use familiar words rather than educational jargon.
- Talk about reading and writing instead of literacy, books instead of literature, pictures instead of illustrations, and the classroom instead of the learning environment.



THE TRENTON LITERACY MOVEMENT IS IN THE NEWS

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TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

EDUCATION

Read on! Trenton Literacy Movement on right path for success

The key to a less violent city remains connected to education.

Period.

While law enforcement may deliver temporary solutions to crime, an investment in learning will guarantee best outcomes.

Every police officer, judge, attorney, etc. knows that Trenton will never arrest itself out of crime. And, while it's understandable that attention focuses on current, real-time criminal behaviors, a lasting peace tethers successful education initiatives.

We know reading with comprehension represents the building block for education construction.

To that end, the Trenton Literacy Movement (TLM) continues an initiative to assure early childhood reading efforts prepare students for education success. TLM missions to assure Trenton students read at grade level by third grade.

TLM faces substantial challenges as numerous investigations note deficiencies in reading and learning. According to TLM:

- Thirty-four percent of all U.S. children enter-



L.A.
Parker
Columnist

ing kindergarten lack the basic skills needed to learn to read.

- Sixty-one percent of low-income families have no books at all in their homes for their children.

- Sixty-five percent of fourth graders read below grade level contributing to 8,000 students dropping out of high school every year.

- Low literacy affects entire communities and Trenton is no exception.

Low literacy skills are a predictor of future poverty, a lifetime of limited opportunities and a potential fast track to incarceration.

Would wager dollars against donuts that most violent criminals have limited learning successes and lack reading proficiency. That likely truth should activate programs that support education.

In 2016, The Trenton Literacy Movement, Inc., formed with the goal of identifying and applying educational technologies to improve reading outcomes for children in Trenton. TLM added:

- By age 2, children who are read to regu-



TRENTONIAN FILE PHOTO

The main Trenton Free Public Library at 120 Academy Street.

larly display greater language skills, comprehension, larger vocabularies, and cognitive skills than their peers.

- By age 3, according to some research, there is a thirty million word-gap heard by children from affluent families and poorer families.

The TLM mission, combined with success, attracts support.

The Trenton Literacy Movement, Inc. is set to receive 5,000 books from Reading Is Fundamental as a new groundbreaking

partnership with the nation's largest nonprofit organization for children's literacy develops.

The "Books for Ownership matching grant award" from Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), Inc. includes a \$20,000 dollar matching grant to provide TLM books from the Reading is Fundamental bookstore.

TLM stands as the lone New Jersey nonprofit to receive this award. Details on how books will be distributed will be announced at a later date by the Trenton Liter-

Movement Education Committee.

"As a result of this new partnership TLM will be able to vastly expand and grow our movement and reach into the homes of literally hundreds of parents, educators, children and stakeholders, who are all committed to improving literacy outcomes for our youth in the Trenton, Mercer County area. This partnership will help us to advance our mission of children reading on grade level by third grade," says Douglas H. Palmer, TLM

board chairman.

Edward Bullock, president of the TLM board, explains.

"RIF is not only the nation's largest nonprofit organization for children's literacy, they have also provided more than 420 million books to over one hundred million children in all fifty states, inspiring generations to read, learn and grow," Bullock praises.

"We will also be able to add to our own play list at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhU1YD3wkS5K0hBA5bXDAldoRjRQc_j Read Aloud library of hundreds of compelling stories from the extensive RIF library with links to additional resources for educators, parents and youth."

Personally, education extends beyond school walls as city learning opportunities connect to art, language, diversity, music, museums, libraries, and a litany of other outreaches.

The formula never changes here. Want a better Trenton?

Education. Education. Education.

L.A. Parker is a Trentonian columnist. Find him on Twitter @LAParker6 or email him at LAParker@Trentonian.com.

THE TRENTON LITERACY MOVEMENT AND READING IS FUNDAMENTAL (RIF) JOINED TOGETHER WITH STARBUCKS TO PROVIDE LITERACY KITS

Clara Parker Elementary School students in Trenton were the lucky recipients of 100 literacy kits, delivered earlier this month by The Trenton Literacy Movement in tandem with Reading Is Fundamental and employees from the local Starbucks, according to a press release. One hundred literacy kits provided books, bookmarks, and activities delivered to students at Parker Elementary School with the theme of creating a brew-tiful day in the neighborhood.

The Trenton Literacy Movement and Reading is Fundamental (RIF) teamed up with Trenton Starbucks Community Store employees to assemble and deliver 100 literacy kits to the students of Clara Parker Elementary, a public school in Trenton.

RIF's literacy kits provide new books and reading resources for children to take home and own, building their home libraries and creating a life-long love of reading. Each student received a tote bag with: three books with bookplates that provide a special place for children to write their name, a bookmark, an activity sheet to extend their reading experience beyond the book, and a thank you coloring sheet that can be completed and returned.

RIF provided the kit materials to Starbucks Community Stores across the country to assemble and distribute to children at a local school. The stores selected a theme and were sent books and activity sheets that aligned with that theme. The Starbucks Community Store in Trenton selected "The Power of Inclusion: Diversity, Equity, & Empowerment."

Go to www.thetrentonliteracymovement.org for more information on this unique partnership.

Welcome
Parker Elementary
Bienvenidos



Above left to right Ms. Lorcha Lewis, Principal at Clara Parker Elementary School, Kiana Justiniano, Store Manager for the Trenton Starbucks Community Store at 102 South Warren Street and Gloria Jean Tunstall, Vice President of the Trenton Literacy Movement board of trustees and longtime Trenton educator and student of Clara Parker Elementary School.

Below: The Starbucks Community Store in Trenton donated books inspired by the theme "The Power of Inclusion: Diversity, Equity, & Empowerment."



TO OUR DONORS. THANK YOU!

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Hire up to **24 afterschool certified teachers, 2 per school.**
- Hire **2 monitors** to support the afterschool instructors and share best practices.
- Provide **stipends for parent liaisons** to encourage greater participation on the part of parents and children.
- Launch our interactive website at www.thetrentonliteracymovement.org.
- Launch our own **TTLM YOUTUBE Channel** with 14 read-alouds in partnership with the Trenton Kappa Foundation as readers and available **24 hours, 7 days a week**, to encourage parents to read to their children.

PLEASE SCAN



- We also partnered with the **Trenton Digital Initiative**, TDI, to provide free computers for home use.
- Because of your support we were able to provide incentives from gift certificates to computers to increase participation and reward excellence in the afterschool reading intervention program.
- Because of your support our journey continues.



**PLEASE JOIN US AND OUR MOVEMENT WITH
YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION.
DONATE HERE. DONATE NOW.
THANK YOU!**

CARM CATANESE

Chairman, Fundraising Committee

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