

READING BETWEEN THE LIONS

University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication Finds Curriculum Benefits Teachers and Students

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 17 /PRNewswire/ -- Mississippi preschoolers at risk for reading failure make significant gains in reading skills after using an educational curriculum based on the award-winning PBS series, Between the Lions. Through the Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Initiative, Mississippi Public Broadcasting has provided lessons, books and DVDs of episodes to more than 1,500 economically disadvantaged children across the state.

Key Findings

"Our research clearly indicates that the Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Initiative curriculum positively impacts vocabulary development, teacher behavior and literacy environments," said Deborah L. Linebarger, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication and Lead Investigator in the study. "We found substantial evidence in the Between the Lions: Mississippi Literacy Initiative study that children who may be at-risk for reading failure due to economic disadvantages are acquiring necessary early literacy skills."

Participants in the research study were 319 children in preschools and child care centers living in economically disadvantaged communities in Mississippi. The study was conducted during 2007-2008.

"Among the more significant findings is the fact that on some literacy measures, children who were below the national average at pre-tests, improved to levels above the national average in post-tests," said Marie Antoon, MPB executive director.

Children who participated in the Treatment Group learning with Between the Lions were better able to identify Lower Case Letters (81.9 percent in the Treatment Group vs. 61.3 percent in the Control Group) and Letter Sounds (75.2 percent in the Treatment Group vs. 50.5 percent in the Control Group).

In addition, children in the Treatment Group obtained higher scores on the Get Ready to Read! Screener -- a national measure used to build and identify early literacy skills -- than the national Head Start average (9 - 12 points vs. 8.52 points).

"The most impressive thing about this study is it confirms that the Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Initiative is transforming daycare centers into child learning centers," said Dr. Susan Zelman, Vice President of Education for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). "The study indicates that teachers using the curriculum learn new classroom management strategies and how to carry out activities that build language and other early reading skills. As a result, the children make enormous gains in key areas of literacy."

Spokes

February 23, 2010
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

ROTARY YEAR
2009-2010

OFFICERS
MARY CROMARTIE
President

BILL MCLEOD
President-Elect

ROBERT CUMMINGS
Vice-President

MAURA MCLAUGHLIN
Secretary - Treasurer

LAMAR EVANS
Executive Secretary

GENE OWENS
Sergeant-At-Arms

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expiring - June 30, 2010
Steve Ramp
Erik Graham
Wally Weakley
Patrick Ward

Past President:
Richard Topp

Term Expiring - June 30, 2011
Heath Hillman
Gene Owens
Mike Ratliff
Aime Spears

SPOKES Editor
Aime Spears
aspears@whlt.com

Official Newsletter of the

ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

We are looking for reading volunteers every week on Tuesday or Friday mornings.
The Gandy Child Development Center
2201 South 28th Avenue Extension
601-268-0808



See Eric Graham if you have questions.
Sign-up sheet located at sign-in table.
30 minutes or less to read a book or two

READING BETWEEN THE LIONS FEB/MAR READING SCHEDULE

DATE	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Tuesday, 2/23 9:30am	Audra Cummings	
Friday, 2/26 9:30am	Walley Weakley, Kristy Gould	Bill Hughes, Bill MacLaughlan
Tuesday, 3/2 9:30am	Scott Hummel	
Friday 3/5 9:30am	Sean Priebe	Bill Hughes, Bill MacLaughlan
Tuesday, 3/9 9:30am		
Friday, 3/12 9:30am	Debbie Adamson	Bill Hughes, Bill MacLaughlan

MINUTES FROM 2/16/2010

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

A.D. Hunt gave the invocation and Bill Pace led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary then led the Club in the Four Way Test.

Gene Owens introduced today's visiting Rotarians and guests. Barbara Mauldin, Milton Wheeler and Pierce Stevens from the Petal Club attended. Elwood Hausler was a guest of Richard Topp and Cory Whittington was a guest of Jerome Brown.

Gene then auctioned off a NBA basketball donated by CBS 22. Lance Nail was the high bidder at \$25. The money will go to the Rotary Foundation

Thanks to Bill MacLaughlin who served as our greeter today.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Mary then led the club through our required Club Assembly. She first invited Bill McLeod, Membership Committee Chair forward to install a new member.

Carolyn Jones, recruited by Susan Light was inducted and welcomed to the Club.

Bill reported that our current membership stands at 117, including the induction of Carolyn. Unfortunately, Tom Phillips resigned from the Club today. Our membership goal for the year is 123 which must be reached before June 30. Members are encouraged to begin actively recruiting new members. Meeting attendance is up for the year and stands now at 61% compared to 55% last year. Members were encouraged to make up meetings at other Rotary clubs or on-line at Rotary.org.

Lamar Evans reported that the Club is solvent, financially. He noted that for the past several years the Club has had to borrow money from the savings account to pay the bills for the first few months of the fiscal year. That did not happen this year. Members who pay their invoices in a timely manner and two very successful fund raisers helped make that possible. Additionally, the Club sent \$7,000 to Rotary International for Shelter Boxes that were

sent to Haiti.

Robert Cummings reported on the specific projects either completed or underway. He thanked those who participated in the Wine Tasting and the Golf Tournament, both very successful events. He also thanked Erik Graham for his work on the Reading Between the Lions project. In addition to these events, the Club is also working on the Night in Italy event and a Water Project. In addition to the Shelter Boxes sent to Haiti the club also has or will make a contribution to the Salvation Army, The Children's Center for Communications and Development and the Young Authors project at William Carey University.

Maura McLaughlan gave members an overview of the Rotary Foundation and encouraged everyone's participation. The District has an individual goal of \$33 this year for the Polio Plus project. Maura also reported that the Club has a goal to register every member as a sustaining member before year's end. The cost to the member is \$100 annually.

John McDaniel reported on the Club's scholarship activities throughout the year. We are currently recruiting two candidates for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Two Grover B. Anderson Scholarships will be awarded later in the year and our Club has the opportunity to nominate a candidate for the prestigious Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. This scholarship is valued between \$28 and \$33 thousand dollars and will give the recipient a post graduate scholarship at any university in the World.

Wallace Weakley noted that he will be recruiting families to host members of the Group Study Exchange that will be coming to the area in early April.

Mary thanked Jennifer Payne and Jaclyn Adams for serving on the Social Committee. They put together the successful Wine Tasting event and the Christmas Party. A summer outing is being considered now. She also recognized and thanked Conrad Welker and Bill MacLaughlan for serving on the Benevolent Committee. She also reported that Robert Cummins and Bill McLeod will represent our Club at Rotary International. Attendance is encouraged for the April District Conference. Volunteers are needed for the Night in Italy event in April and a Kollege of Knowledge will be scheduled in the near future.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Voldi Rayborn, Census Bureau Partnership Assistant

Hometown: Lumberton

Education: Lumberton HS, 1973

Mississippi State University (BS Agriculture and Extension Education) 1978

Florida Institute of Technology (MS Logistics Management) 1986

U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 1991

University of Southern Mississippi (MS Political Science) 2004

Career: Commissioned through ROTC program at Mississippi State in 1978, now Retired Military Officer (Army)

He and his wife, Michong have two adult sons. They are members of First Baptist Church of Hattiesburg where they teach an adult Sunday School class. They currently reside in the Bellevue Community. When not working for the Census Bureau, Mr Rayborn is involved in managing timber land in Lamar County.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.....

Considered for membership is David Gustafson. David is being proposed for membership by Ric Corts. David is the publisher for the Lamar Times, and is also a current member of the Shenandoah, Iowa Rotary Club and would like to transfer.

Don't forget about the Membership Challenge. It is a great way to help us gain the membership we need. We are doing a fine job of recruiting, but unfortunately we lose members for various reasons.

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 23	Traycee Scott- Williams – Census Bureau
Feb 23	Rotary International 104th Anniversary
Mar 2	Hattiesburg Rotary 92 year Birthday
Mar 31	Deadline to Register for District Conference April 15-17
Apr 1	RYLA Applications Due



Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bay Springs - 12:00	Columbia - 12:00	Clinton - 12:00	Madison-Ridgeland - 12:00
City Hall	The Backdoor Restaurant	Baptist Health Plex	Steam Room Grill 155 N
Bolton - 7:30	Flowood - 12:00	Gluckstadt - 12:00	Jackson
Methodist Church	River Oaks Hospital	Parker House Restaurant	Taylorville - 12:00
Collins - 12:00	Laurel - 12:00	Hattiesburg Sunrise - 7:00	MS Power Co. Building
Cedars Restaurant	Laurel Country Club	Wesley Medical Center Cafeteria	Wiggins - 12:00
Ellisville - 12:00	North Jackson - 12:00	Heidelberg - 12:00	Gulf Coast C.C. Cafeteria
J.C.J.C. Cafeteria	St. James	Library	
Jackson - 12:00	Episcopal Church	Poplarville - 12:00	<i>Friday</i>
MS Museum of Art		Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria	Rankin County - 12:00
Lucedale - 12:00		Richton - 12:00	Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex
MS Gulf Coast Community		Magnolia Restaurant	Slidell, LA - 12:00
College Cafeteria		Waynesboro - 12:00	Pinewood Country Club
Petal - 12:00		Western Sizzlin	
Civic Center		Prentiss - 12:00	
South Hinds County - 12:00		Country Fisherman	
BoDons Catfish & Seafood			