

Chesapeake Reading Council

"Catching the Wave to Literacy"

Visit our web site—www.chesapeakereads.org

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Value Check Books are on sale!! Please send \$10 to Michael L. French at GTP... only limited quantities are available!
- Chesapeake Reading Council will be providing the decorations for the VSRA Convention in Virginia Beach.

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~PROMOTING LITERACY IN CHESAPEAKE~

The Chesapeake Reading Council (CRC) is a public service organization, which is devoted to promoting literacy throughout our city and schools, and fostering a lifelong pursuit of reading. The Council is concerned with reading, language arts, spoken language, and content area reading. The CRC has been chartered for over 40 years and is a vital force in reading education throughout the City of Chesapeake. Working in all of the Chesapeake schools, we support the children, parents, teachers and administrators of the entire city by providing programs and resources, which promote literacy and literacy education. Membership in the CRC includes elementary, middle, and secondary school personnel, and central administration staff. The Chesapeake Reading Council is an affiliate of the Virginia State Reading Association and the International Reading Association.

Message From the President

Happy Winter! Can you believe we actually had snow? What's better than a cold day and a good book?

With the snow, winter brings mid-terms, PALS testing, and benchmarks. We are in a routine and the school year is starting to coast downhill—just like my snowman friend beside me.

The next few months are busy for CRC. We are

hosting not one, but two, literacy events for young writer's. (Read more about our new event on the back page.) CRC is also in charge of the decorations for the VSRA Convention in Va. Beach.



If you are attending the conference, we may grab you to help. Our year comes to a close in April with our Annual Awards Banquet and RTOY Recognition.

For now, I hope you can cozy up with a good book.

Your President,
Cathy Collier

Calendar at a Glance

February

Young Writer's Information Due to Ellen Tart, Chittum Elementary

March

VSRA Conference March 11-13
Young Writer's Reception at OSHS March 16
Secondary Schools Literacy Jam March 23

April

CRC Annual Awards Banquet & RTOY Recognition April 27

January was Reading Month



Superintendent Dr. Nichols reads to a kindergarten class at Great Bridge Primary School.



Greenbrier Primary School hosted a "Hats Off to Reading" Day.



ABOVE: Doors for Donuts at Georgetown Primary.

LEFT: A community helper reads at Thurgood Marshall.



Schools throughout the city helped CRC celebrate reading during January. Schools chose many creative ways to celebrate Reading Month. There were guest readers, parades, programs, and dress-up days. Students were able to highlight reading throughout the month and throughout their school. Here are few samples of ideas from some of our schools.

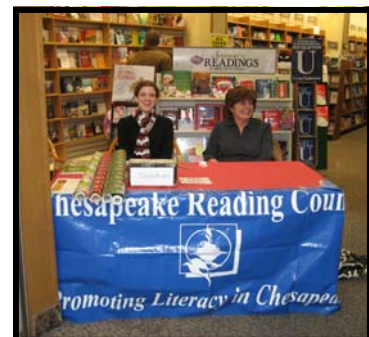
- Butts Road Int.**—had a storybook character dress-up day.
- Carver Int.**—wore jogging suits in honor of "Reading Jogs your Mind" Day.
- Chesapeake Alternative School**—had a book give-away.
- Crestwood Int.**—had an AR competition.
- Crestwood Middle**—had a bookmark making contest.
- Deep Creek Central**—had a Mystery Reader.
- Georgetown Primary**—had a Doors for Donuts decorating contest.
- Great Bridge Int.**—exceeded their goal of 4,000 books read for the month with a total of 5,491!
- Great Bridge Primary**—invited a Reading Magician.
- Hickory Elementary**—had a book swap.
- Indian River Middle**—hosted a gently used book drive.
- Norfolk Highlands Primary**—hosted a Literacy Night for parents.
- Portlock Primary**—hosted Guest Readers.
- Rena B. Wright Primary**—hosted a Literary Luncheon for AR achievers.
- Sparrow Road**—had a clue read on the announcements to Guess a Book.
- Southeastern Elementary**—cuddled up with good books and pajamas.
- Southwestern Elementary**—had a weekly Author's Study.
- Thurgood Marshall Elementary**—wore beach clothes day (to follow our "Catch the Wave" theme).
- Truitt Int.**—passed the story and wrote Snowed in at Truitt.



Gift Wrapping

Chesapeake Reading Council's Annual Gift Wrapping Event took place December 12, 13, and 19th at Waldenbooks inside Greenbrier Mall. Many patrons made donations to the Chesapeake Reading Council to be used for a variety of community projects, including the upcoming Baby Fair.

A special **thanks** to all those who volunteered time during their busy holiday schedule. Help me thank Nick and Kim Nichter, Joanna Bartee, Debbie Hurst, Bethany Upton, Heather Bailey, Melody Budzina, Heather Cuffee, Ivy Smith, Latrese Brown, Erin Olsen, Kathryn Tisdale, Amy Walker, Catherine Parks, Sharae Brown, and Gina Walton when you see them. We couldn't have done it without them!!!



Holiday



Chesapeake Reading Teacher of the Year 2010



Melissa Howard
GBI Reading Specialist

We'd like to honor Melissa Howard, a reading teacher at Great Bridge Intermediate, as the Chesapeake Reading Council Reading Teacher of the Year! Melissa is a member of the International Reading Association as well as a National Board Certified Teacher. She has even taught classes for National Board Certification to other school systems! She is a true advocate for literacy not only in her school, but in the community as well, working with her church to start a library in another country. Melissa would love to win the Ofie T. Rubin Teacher of the Year Award to create a library for children dealing with homelessness.

We feel Melissa is a very worthy candidate for the VSRA Reading Teacher of the Year Award.



*"Today a reader,
tomorrow a leader."
~Margaret Fuller~*



James D. Mullins Leadership Award Recipient

Congratulations to Mrs. Grace Hopkins, principal of Butts Road Intermediate School and CPS's nominee for this year's James D. Mullins Leadership Award!! This award was established by the Virginia State Reading Association in 1994 to recognize administrators who show exceptional support of reading. Mrs. Grace Hopkins is a strong advocate for reading, teachers and children; has a vision for her school and the entire school system; consistently

makes decisions based on her belief system; is creative in finding resources to support reading programs; and is a strong supporter (and past president of CRC!!) of reading, the VSRA, and other reading-oriented organizations and groups. Thank you Mrs. Hopkins for all you do to ensure literacy to the children of Butts Road Intermediate along with the children within our communities and the state of Virginia.



Mrs. Grace Hopkins—BRI Principal

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our RTOY's across the district!!!

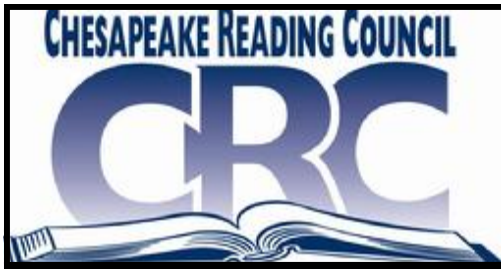
Elementary Schools

- BRI** Robin Kemether
- BRP** Lisa LeFevre
- Carver** Catherine Parks
- CRE** Angelique Thames
- Chittum** Sheila Manugo
- CWI** Lindsey Griffin
- DCE** Susan Black
- GTP** Amie Seigle
- GBI** Melissa Howard
- GBP** Leigh Kelleter

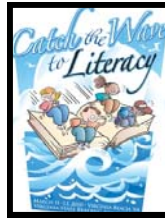
- HES** Angie Smith
- NHP** Laura Sager
- Portlock** Christine Hamblett
- SEE** Amy Walker
- SWE** Sharon Register
- SRI** Cindy Albertson
- Treagle** Jonnielle Featherston
- WBI** Anna Roth
- WBP** Tamara Gaudreau
- RBW** Colleen Duncan

Middle/High Schools

- CMS** Deborah Baxter
- DCM** Mea Popelka
- GBM** Mynette Lawrence
- HMS** Gina Walton
- IRM** Ann Marie Young
- OSM** Lisa Gasser
- GHS** Kendra Cotterell



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The 2010 VSRA conference will be held on
 March 11 - 13, 2010 at:

Virginia Beach Convention Center
 1000 19th Street
 Virginia Beach, VA 23451
 Tel: (757) 385-2000
 Web Site:
www.vbfun/conventionCenter

The conference will offer learning opportunities in the following areas:

- Teaching the Dimensions of Reading
- Developing Instructional Leadership
- Creating Environments for Literacy
 - Closing the Achievement Gap
- Enhancing the Quality of Instruction
- Planning, Assessment and Accountability

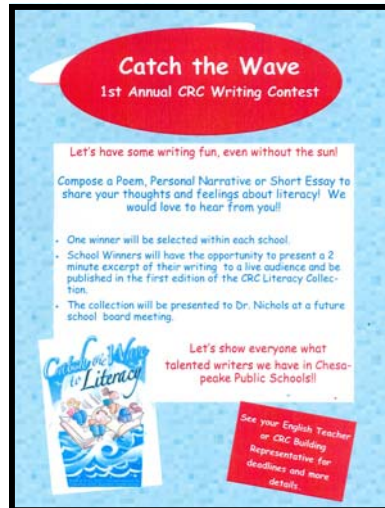
Look for all the fund details in the next newsletter.



Gifts for Ghana

Every year VSRA and the University of Mary Washington send a delegation of reading teachers to Winneba, Ghana. This delegation spends 15 days teaching teachers in Winneba how to teach reading. They also take food, school supplies, and clothing donations to Winneba.

In honor of International Literacy Day, CRC donated \$100 to this mission. Teachers from Portlock Primary and Indian River Middle School also donated school supplies to be taken to Winneba. Thank you for your money and supplies.



Catch the Wave Writing Contest

In an attempt to create a personal event for middle and high school students, CRC has designed a writing contest to highlight each middle and high school in our system. The students are asked to compose a Poem, Personal Narrative or Short Essay to share their thoughts and feelings about literacy!

Grade level winners and an overall winner will be chosen at the school level. Grade level winners will be mentioned in the program, while overall winners will have time at the microphone to share a portion of their winning selection.

In addition to sharing their work, overall school winners will be published in an anthology that will be presented to Dr. Nichols at a future School Board meeting.

For more details and deadlines, go to www.chesapeakereads.org and click on Upcoming Events.