



***Literacy Alive!* Professional Member Stipend Recipients**

This year seven Kappa Delta Pi members received a \$100 stipend to aid in the implementation of a *Literacy Alive!* event in their school or community.

Congratulations to the following KDP educators:

Angelica Merk-Serrano

Title of Funded Proposal: Saint Theresa School Garden

Kenilworth, New Jersey

Estimated number of people benefitting from this project: 100+

Saint Theresa School used “seed money” awarded to them from Kappa Delta Pi and other community partners to start a school garden. Planting a garden provides the students with an opportunity to explore science topics like the water cycle, photosynthesis, climate and weather etc. The students can also apply practical math skills like calculating area, perimeter, budgeting, planning and making predictions. This project enabled the cultivation of a connection of students’ school gardening experiences with great books. Books about gardening gave students the tools to research and plan the garden, and older students were able to share the garden experience with younger students through story books.

Deborah Croteau

Title of Funded Proposal: Raising a Reader

Greensboro, North Carolina

Estimated number of people benefitting from this project: 175 families

Raising a Reader helps families develop, practice and sustain home literacy routines. This cohort of Raising a Reader implemented evidence-based and parent involvement programs with several classes of children ranging in age from six months to four years. This community based program is unique in that the parents are English Language Learners being taught to read using children’s books while learning how to develop their children’s pre-literacy skills. The funding from Kappa Delta Pi enabled this group to serve additional families by including a series of parent workshops teaching families about early brain development and its relation to strong language and literacy skills.

Grant Kinman

Title of Funded Proposal: Sacred Heart High School Book Club

Los Angeles, California

Estimated number of people benefitting from this project: 15+

The Kappa Delta Pi Teacher Literacy Fund provided a \$100 stipend to support the newly established Sacred Heart High School Book Club. The book club was established earlier in the year by two eager students who understood the benefits of literacy and wanted to share these with the school community. The book club is a sanctuary and a great learning experience for its proud members. However, for many members of the club there is a financial burden that comes along with purchasing the novel the club is discussed. The stipend was used to assist the financially struggling members to purchase their own copies of the books, allowing them to better analyze and review the material.

Heather Smith and Lauren Beavers

Title of Funded Proposal: Bringing Families Together through Literacy

Jacksonville, Illinois

Estimated number of people benefitting from this project: 400

Bringing Families Together through Literacy was a series of literacy events that encouraged families to enjoy literature in fun and interactive ways. Summaries of the various literacy nights are included below.

Lights, Camera, Action, Books: Literacy came alive through the singing and storytelling of a local musician. This Family Reading Night served as the attention getter for the series. This night brought literacy to life as parents and students listen to stories as they were performed.

Basketball and Books combined physical education and literacy. This night included informational sessions for the parents on specific literacy topics coupled with family fun of playing basketball.

Cuddle Up and Read combined informational strategies to use with the students at home as well as putting these strategies into practice. During this night, students and parents were able to drop everything and cuddle up and read.

Boogie Down With a Good Book. This Family Reading Night combined physical activities and literacy. There was a variety of informational sessions provided for participants to choose from. Families then had time to enjoy some fun and dance.

Informational sessions for each event included guest speakers from various places within the community. Speakers ranged from classroom teachers to Title I staff within the school community, presenting on topics related to literacy. Family Reading Nights also had sessions taught by experts within our district on the topics of technology and behavior.

Jessica Rondeau

Title of Funded Proposal: Family Literacy Night

Junction City, Kansas

Estimated number of people benefitting from this project: 500+

During this event, students were each given a text “Math Trek: Adventures in Math Zone”, and an electronic tablet was raffled. Participating stakeholders learned about digital literacy, our district literacy plan, literacy screener and diagnostic assessments that all students take, and community resources to help families improve literacy for all learners. The event was open to all family members, including students not specifically assigned to our school.

The Family Literacy Night project is a value-added model in that all presenters and participants served varied roles. During the first Family Literacy Night, the school faculty presented information to stakeholders using various technology and expertise. District personnel provided funding as well as a national speaker, Dr. Jason Ohler, to present current digital literacy issues. Community resources, including support from the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library were shared.

After our first Family Literacy Night in November, participant feedback was outstanding! Our stakeholders wish to know more about the screeners that we utilize with their students, and also want to know more about how to use their electronic devices to improve literacy at home with technology.

Stakeholders have spoken, and we have listened! For our second Family Literacy Night: BYOD, we have four “mini-sessions” that participants are able to select from to incorporate literacy into our everyday lives. Sessions will include; Common Sense Media, On-line book resources, Literacy Apps and Web Resources, and District Screener simulations. In addition, our “Literacy Lounge” will be available for children in the Media Center. This is a chance for parents and/or guardians to engage their younger children in immersive literacy activities directed by certified educators.

Kasey Branham

Title of Funded Proposal: Coffee House Night

Hartsville, South Carolina

Estimated number of people benefitting from this project: 1137

Students will continue working in their individual English/Language Arts with writing pieces or short stories and poems. Each teacher selected four to five pieces of writing that stand out based on the qualifications of the assignment. This gives every child in the school a chance to participate through the various writing assignments. In the spring, the school held a coffee house night. Parents were invited to attend the coffee house and hear their child read their original work. This provided an opportunity for students to build on the speaking and listening skills as part of the Common Core State Standards. Parents and participants were provided with refreshments at the coffee house.

Nicole Martone

Title of Funded Proposal: Parent Teacher Student Organization Literacy Night

Waterbury, Connecticut

Estimated number of people benefitting from this project: 3000+

The Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) Literacy Night provided an opportunity for the school community to learn more about what our teachers are doing in the classroom, in terms of promoting a greater use of informational text- literary non-fiction, in English/Language Arts, to better prepare our students for the new assessment that would be administered the following spring. Parents were taught the new skills that teachers have been teaching the students which are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and explained how they can support their children's literacy skills with non-fiction and informational texts at home as well as in the classroom.