

Mercier Literacy News

Nazareth Honors Mercier

George E. Mercier Award Honors Lifetime Contribution to Improving Literacy for Rochester's Children



Director of Nazareth College Graduate Literacy Programs, Dr. Naomi Erdmann, presented Mercier Literacy founder George Mercier, with a new award named in his honor, October 14.

"We want to honor him

for his generous contributions to literacy," Erdmann said. "He has been helping children in Rochester for eight years."

The award will be given in future years to individuals working to promote literacy in Rochester.

AUTUMN, 2010

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Camp-Read-A-Lot served up fun and learning to more than 100 students this summer.

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Expansion to School 46 gives twice as many students opportunity to improve reading and writing in the Mercier Literacy program.

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Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." -Frederick Douglas

Expansion to School 46 a success, many students on waiting list

More city school students will benefit from the Mercier Literacy Program's successful after-school program this year, thanks to an expansion to Rochester City School 46.

Offered free to students struggling with reading and writing, the program is modeled after the

free Saturday School program Mercier Literacy has offered at School 9 for four years. Mercier's certified teachers assess every child entering the program, create a curriculum tailored to their needs, and provide small group instruction.

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Camp-Read-A-Lot 2010: More kids, more books, more fun!

More than 100 students from school 9 and surrounding schools participated in our daily program this summer.

Students were bused to the program, given breakfast and lunch by the school, then met with teachers in small groups to work on reading and writing from 9 a.m. to noon.

Mercier teachers assessed every child upon entering the program and created a curriculum tailored to that child's needs.

All kindergartners improved on at least four of the six post-program assessments, all first graders improved on at least three of five assessments.

"The children were excited to arrive each day," said teacher Cathy Lippincott.

Each child took home ten new books this summer. "The resources we get are great," Lippincott said. "We have an endless amount of books from a variety of different genres."



Second grade students practice sight-reading words with Mercier teacher Dennis Moriarty. 100 percent of students improved on test scores

School 46 (continued from page 1)

The School 46 program has 45 children with more on a waiting list. Mercier Directors Katie Paxton-Johnson and Rosanne Kulikowski hope to increase enrollment next semester.

"(School 46) Principal Sharon Delly is committed to providing as many enrichment opportunities as possible for her students," said Paxton-Johnson. "We credit her support and encouragement for our near 100 percent attendance rate." She said School 46 parents have been very supportive.

The children stay after school until 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, and start with a healthy snack provided by Wegmans.

The children then meet in small groups for reading and writing instruction at their own level.

"For some of our incoming kindergartners this is their first school experience, their first



Teacher Kris Tisa helps kindergarten students learn letters and their sounds.

experience with letters and letters sounds," said Paxton-Johnson. "Some of them didn't even know the alphabet on their first day."



Teacher highlight



Barbara McMullen (left) and Cathy Lippincott have been a team at Mercier for two years. They work together in the third and fourth grade room at School 46, and School 9.

Barbara McMullen

Teaching experience: 34 years in first grade in Webster; retired three years; fourth year with Mercier.

Personal: Married, two adult children, enjoys reading, cooking, biking and playing tennis, lives in Greece.

What do you like best about working for Mercier

Literacy? "This is a challenging, but exciting, place to be. The kids are so excited about learning. Over the years I've seen a lot of the same kids, and built nice relationships with them. We see a lot of growth in a short period of time."

Cathy Lippincott

Teaching experience: Recent graduate; substitute teaching while seeking full-time position; second year at Mercier.

Personal: single, lives in Greece, enjoys cake decorating, painting, and "anything artsy and creative."

What do you like best about working for Mercier Literacy? "Working with children with such high needs in reading and writing is a challenge, and really makes me feel like I am making a difference. We try to make learning fun for the kids, and giving them new books every week is a great way to do that."

WRITER'S CORNER

"I like to go outside and play with my baby brother. I put him on the scooter and push him around. We go up the sidewalk. He laughs and laughs! He always wants me to do it again"

-- Jose, 6, School 46.



In our next issue:

News from our Saturday School and afterschool programs at School 9.

Share Your Love of Reading With a Child

Many children in our program have never had the opportunity to own their own book. We let them choose a brand-new book to take home every single week.

"We work on building excitement about the book, as well as showing children that books are like gold and they are precious gifts!" says Mercier Director Rosanne Kulikowski.

"There are such beautiful, endearing and fun books out

there, we appreciate any donation towards getting the books in the hands of kids and their families."

You can personalize a new book for a child through our Facebook page, or website, www.mercierliteracyprogram.org/donate.html.

Engage your children or grandchildren in giving in a concrete way. Have them purchase and personalize a book for a child in our program, and let them



know how much that book will be cherished.

Perfect for a Scout troop or classroom looking for a way to help promote literacy in Rochester.

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To our supporter