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Dear Friends,

Thanks so much to everyone for your support of Turning the Page and to those of you who have already signed on to support our spring used book drive and sale effort, Carpe Librum. Thus far, more than 80 businesses and residences are holding used book, CD and DVD drives on behalf of Turning the Page. In these difficult economic times, the sale of books has become more important than ever to our ability to maintain and strengthen Turning the Page programs here in DC. It's not too late to help out for this spring's effort!

Our goal is to sign up an additional 50 businesses/residences in the next two weeks to help us collect used books! We can arrange for a pick-up at your business or residence. If you cannot organize a drive, but have books to donate, please let me know as well. I can be reached at jking@turningthepage.org.

Thank you,
Jason

Parents Make Learning Fun!

Parent leaders at Terrell and King ES host family Literacy and Math Nights



Parents, teachers, and the MC Terrell school community came together over games of scrabble, boggle, and word bingo to promote student achievement at Literacy Night on February 24. Throughout the evening, families moved from table to table in the cafeteria, playing games and visiting the booths of local community partners. Local author Cassandra Hill led an engaging presentation, reading her newest book to children and parents at the event. Families learned about the opportunities for reading and learning at their neighborhood libraries from representatives of the [DC Public Library](#). AmeriCorps*VISTA Fellow, Liz Lewis, commented "It felt great to see teachers and parents interacting in a positive way." Teachers shared with parents examples of standards-based literacy activities by grade so they could see how their children were learning in class.

Down the road on the same night, the Home School

Association, with support from Turning the Page, sponsored the second annual Math Night at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. Over 75 students and 15 parents attended the fun-filled evening full of games, prizes, and learning. Children played games by grade-level such as multiplication Bingo and Yahtzee while parents learned the basics of Everyday Mathematics, the current system for teaching math in DC. Parents created math fact triangle flashcards and left with a booklet of math games to play at home. King parent, Kionna Florence, shared “I went [to Math Night] because my son loves math and I love math. I was really good at math in high school and I want my kids to succeed as well. I also went so my youngest two [children] could start getting acquainted to math... My kids had a ball!”

Presentations at Community Nights

Mary Fitzhugh-Johnson, a fifth grade teacher at Payne, shares why she loves giving teacher presentations

“She’s always the same Ms. Johnson...110 percent behind the kids,” said Payne Elementary parent and Community Night regular Ms. Ornika Smith of fifth grade teacher Ms. Mary Johnson. Ms. Smith had nothing but high praise for the teacher, who has presented at five Community Nights over the last two years of TTP’s partnership with the school. Workshop topics have included a range from Technology to Vocabulary, but Ms. Johnson commented that her favorite workshop thus far has been Stress and Academics, because “it was personal” and “people could really talk about how their children were feeling at school.”



Each Community Night workshop includes a fifteen minute teacher presentation. During Community Night workshops, teacher presenters provide some of the most important information that parents can receive during a Community Night: the classroom perspective about how a given workshop topic is actually implemented in or relates to the specific school. At the most recent Community Night at Payne, for example, Ms. Johnson spoke about the ways that technology resources such as computers and the internet are used in Payne classrooms. Ms. Smith commented that Ms. Johnson’s presentation showed that technology can “provide the students with another outlet [and] gives them another incentive to do school work, all with the goal of improving academics.” This workshop was particularly relevant as Ms. Johnson was able to show parents how she incorporates her new SmartBoard technology in the classroom.

Ms. Johnson explained that her strong support of Community Nights at Payne is motivated by the



fact that she can “see parents in a different atmosphere...[where] you can chit-chat at the [dinner] table or in a workshop. I also like seeing the children outside the classroom.”

TTP Welcomes Marcus Gray!

Turning the Page would like to welcome Marcus Gray, our new Director of Program Operations. Marcus comes to us with a wealth of experience in the education and non-profit world. We are thrilled that he has decided to join the TTP team.
