

# Alexandria Tutoring Consortium



## 2008 Annual Report

(July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008)

**A Partnership of the Alexandria Faith Community, the City and the Community with ACPS**

**Mission:** To provide the foundation for future learning success by helping ensure all first and second graders in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) can read at or above grade level by the end of second grade.

### Message from Board Chairman, James S. Roberts

We have concluded our 2007-2008 program year, the 11<sup>th</sup> year for the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. We continue not only to provide quality tutoring to first and second grade students in ACPS, but also to engage the community in general awareness and specific actions in support of reading readiness, literacy, and the benefits of early childhood education. New initiatives this year include:

- We conducted an experimental extension of our tutoring through "Book Buddies", a program developed at UVA's Curry School of Education. This effort, led by ATC tutor Beth Sanderson and Andrea Leidolf and targeted to Jefferson-Houston School, featured customized materials for each tutor and their student. The response to this has been positive and greeted with enthusiasm by tutors. This program will be extended to include William Ramsay and Cora Kelly schools for the 2008-2009 program year.
- We launched a second experiment in conjunction with the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, whereby ATC tutors could extend their tutoring to a longer-term mentoring relationship. We will evaluate how ATC can continue to support this program.
- We continued our Gift Books program, where tutors are able to select books for their student; we look forward to working with a new partner, Hooray for Books.
- Last fall we held the First Annual Alexandria Literacy Forum. Invited organizations, tutors,

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### Save the Date: Thursday, October 16, 2008

**What?** ATC sponsored Alexandria Literacy Forum

**Speaker:** Joan Kindig, a former elementary school librarian, is currently a U. Va. professor of reading and a nationally renowned lecturer who travels the country discussing every facet of teaching children to read.

**When?** Reception 6:30 p.m., Main Program 7– 8:30 p.m.

**Where?** First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, please use the west entrance. **Ample parking is available.**

### The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium

#### Needs You! by Mike Mackey,

Gang Prevention, Intervention and Mentoring Coordinator

Over the years, I often considered becoming a tutor. I'd read stories in the papers about illiteracy levels and, as a Probation Officer, I came across kids on probation who struggled academically. Tutoring seemed to be on my list of New Year's Resolutions—regularly. However, I must admit, something always seemed to get in the way - busy schedule, not knowing the right program, or not being sure of my abilities (it has been a while since I have been in school).

Last year, however, I noticed a memorandum in my mailbox from City Manager Jim Hartmann about tutoring. It caught my eye. It talked about the value of tutoring - how some first and second grade students in our City are struggling to read and how I could actually make a huge difference by becoming a tutor with the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. It struck a chord and sparked my interest.

However, questions immediately rose in my mind. What about my schedule? How could I fit it in? How do I tutor a first grader? What if I mess up? All of the old ghosts of prevention paid me a visit.

However, Mr. Hartmann's memo explained that, as a City employee, I could actually tutor on work time! Okay, there goes the "I don't have time" excuse: I can budget an hour of my work time a week, especially if it will help a kid read. They also offered an orientation, training, and ongoing support so I would be confident in my ability to do it.

After my training, I went to Jefferson Houston Elementary School and, with some admitted anxiety, was introduced to my first grade student. This adorable little boy sheepishly came forward to meet me—stone faced. The teacher made introductions  
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## ATC Sponsors Second Annual Alexandria Literacy Week April 14-18, 2008

Award winning children's book author and illustrator Susan Stockdale made presentations to all first and second graders at Patrick Henry and William Ramsay elementary schools.

About her new book, *Fabulous Fishes*, the Washington Post writes, "If the paintings are the feast, Stockdale's words are the dessert. And she selects them carefully."

Jefferson Houston first and second graders were fortunate to have the opportunity to write their own book with the guidance of Leslie Young, children's book author and ATC Board member.

### Thanks

**Alexandria City Public Schools** We are grateful for the working relationship and true partnership we share with the dedicated teachers, school principals, reading specialists, and Volunteer Coordinators in the following schools: John Adams (Cynthia McKie, Coordinator); Charles Barrett (Cordelia Lawson, Coordinator); Patrick Henry (Margarita Miniovich, Coordinator); Jefferson-Houston School for Arts and Academics (Joan Burrows, Coordinator); Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy (Anne-Marie Harris-White, Coordinator); Maury School (Susanne Lank, Coordinator); Mt. Vernon Community School (Lisa Bryson, Coordinator) James K. Polk (Arlene Mascarenhas and Dianne Kinard, Coordinators) William Ramsay (Christopher McAdoo, Coordinator); and Samuel Tucker (Orla Higgins, Coordinator). We also thank the administrators in the Central Office for critical support, on-going leadership, and their continuing endorsement of the ATC program.

**Ann Anderson**, who is retiring from ACPS, for training several hundred ATC tutors.

**Cynthia Ehlinger and Susan Thomas**, OPMH office staff, for helping out whenever needed.

**Page Elliott**, former librarian at St. Mary's School, for selecting and contributing two sets of books to occupy a special shelf for use by ATC tutors at two different schools.

**John Hendrixon**, ATC tutor, for maintaining our fully interactive and comprehensive website.

**Jennifer Kim**, ATC tutor, for helping to produce ATC's Annual Report.

**Casey Naatjes**, OPMH Business Administrator who is retiring, for seven plus years of in-kind support.

**Steve Rideout**, Chief Judge of the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, for speaking to groups to help recruit new tutors.

**Troy Seals**, tutor, for putting our annual survey on-line.

**Elizabeth Stone**, Elizabeth Stone Gallery, and **Liz Trombe**, Tree Top Books, for facilitating our spring gift books program.

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and he looked up to the top of my 6'4" head, wondering who I was— and was still not smiling. Then, I crouched down, introduced myself and was greeted with the biggest smile in the world.

I could go on and on about the wonderful year I had with my student, but space and time do not allow. I can say for sure that personally, without question, it is the best decision I made all year. I was able to easily negotiate the time each week with my schedule, was able to reschedule when needed, was trained and supported well and had an absolutely wonderful time reading and getting to know my student. This young man struggled writing much more than his name at the beginning of the year, but by the end he easily passed his standardized reading test. While I give the credit to his teachers and school administration, it gives me great satisfaction to know that our tutoring together helped, even though I was given back much more than I gave—and I mean that.

When asked if I would do it again, my answer is simple - sign me up!

*Mike*



### Evaluation of Student Performance 2007-2008 Program

Pre- and post-testing continues to indicate positive reading gains for ATC tutored students. Last year 73 ATC tutored first and second graders took both the fall and spring ACPS administered reading tests. While 43 of them failed the 2007 fall test, 29 (58%) passed in the spring. The remaining 30 students tutored passed the 2007 fall test. These students were likely tutored because their fall test score was borderline passing. Despite this challenge, 25 (83%) passed in the spring. We are working to improve those percentages.

This report is based on a study conducted by an independent evaluation consultant who worked with ACPS Monitoring and Evaluation staff to assure student confidentiality as well as the veracity of findings.

## Many Thanks...

During the 2007 -2008 program year, 96 first and second graders were tutored in reading by 93 volunteer tutors from the following congregations and community groups:

Alfred Street Baptist Church • Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church • Christ Church (Episcopal) • Ebenezer Baptist Church • Emmanuel Episcopal Church • Fairlington United Methodist Church • First Baptist Church • Grace Episcopal Church • Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill (Episcopal) • Old Presbyterian Meeting House • St. Mary's Catholic Church •


St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Alexandria Tutoring Consortium Board • City of Alexandria Employees • St. Martin de Porres

### Tutors and Coordinators\*

Doris Ablard	Janet Hall	Monica Parry
Allen Anderson	Julia Hall	Eloise Payne
Debbie Anderson	Vance Hall	Catherine Phillippe
John Anderson	Lisle Hannah*	Angela Raish
Mary Lee Anderson*	Jackie Henderson	Andrea Rakhmanov
Sue Anderson*	John Hendrixson	Laura Redding*
Priscilla Andre-Colton	Rev. Ann Herlin	Mary Riley
Fatima Ast	Mary Hill	William Rivers
Karen Auth	Jennifer Hollings	Beth Sanderson
Deborah Beaumont	Ardelia Hunter*	Linda Schuessler
Bianca Beeks	Martha Johnston	Troy Seals
Barbara Biebrich*	Patricia Jordan	Joanne Sedor
Cynthia Boyer	Rev. Duane Kay*	Ellen Shreve
Loretta Britten	Jennifer Kim	Gloria Sitton
Doris Brown	Terri Kokinda	Michelle Smith*
Jan Campbell*	Carter Land	Patti Soltys*
Laura Campbell	Barbara Lehr	Leslie Staples*
Bennie Cooper	Michael Levine	Debi Steinbacher
Linda Cotton	Karen Levy	Marilyn Stegman
Kitty Davis	Jacqueline Levy*	Alida Stephens
Christine de la Paz	Ceanea Lewis	Leo Stern
Andrea Diaz	Kristine Lloyd	Patricia Sugrue
Marilyn Doherty	Debbie Ludington	Patricia Sullivan
Sean Doherty	Joanne Lukens	Frieda Toner
Rev. William Dols	Mike Mackey	Jill Tremblay
Julie C. Duke	Joanne Madison	Susan Tuttle
Rob Dunn	Joseph Malloy	Meredith Wade
Toby Eckert	Jim McClary	Barbara Winters
Timothy Elmore	Robin McConnell	Leslie Young*
Audrey Fleming	George McDonald	
John Paul Floom	Sue McIver	
Cynthia Freese	Donnal McPherson	
Sharon Goffe	Virginia Mendez-Clarke	
	Kathleen Noe	

**93 volunteer tutors gave 1,693 hours of service valued at \$30,474**

## Literacy Partnership Honor Roll

<b>Babar the King</b> Alexandria City Public Schools	\$10,000 and above Collis Warner Foundation
<b>The Wizard of Oz</b> Ivakota Assoc. Inc. The Maple Tree Fund Washington-Forrest Foundation	\$ 5,000 and above  in-kind
<b>Cat in the Hat</b>	\$ 2,500 and above
<b>Winnie the Pooh</b>	\$1,000 and above
<b>The Snowy Day</b> Julie C. Duke Jim and Libby McClary Steve and Bobbie Rideout	\$ 500 and above William D. Euille Foundation John and Gwen Mullen
<b>Danny and the Dinosaur</b> Katy and John Anderson Land, Clark, Carroll, Mendelson & Blair, PC	\$ 250 & above Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company James S. Roberts David G. Speck
<b>Cinderella</b> Dodo and Charley Ablard Timothy and Judith Elmore James and Susan Kilpatrick Arthur E. Peabody, Jr. Susan Tuttle	\$ 100 and above Rev. William Dols Rev. Ann Herlin Joanne Madison Peter H. Smeallie Margaret Whitesides
<b>Mother Goose</b> Claudia and Erik Barnett Scott and Chris Newsham Constance D. Santarelli Thomas and Patricia Sugrue Tom Rice David and Melynda Wilcox	Up to \$ 99 Kathleen Noe Eloise T. Payne Jeff and Marjorie Lenn Hugh and Martha Johnston Leslie and William Young Meredith Wade
<b>Contributions from Member Congregations</b>	
Alfred Street Baptist Church • Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church • Ebenezer Baptist Church • Emmanuel Episcopal Church • Fairlington United Methodist Church • First Baptist Church • Grace Episcopal Church • Immanuel Church on the Hill (Episcopal) • Old Presbyterian Meeting House • St. Mary's Catholic Church • St. Paul's Episcopal Church	

### ATC needs your help!

If you have a love of children and a love of reading, we invite you to apply to tutor with ATC. More information and an on-line application are available at [www.alexandriatutors.org](http://www.alexandriatutors.org) or call 703-549-6670, ext. 119.

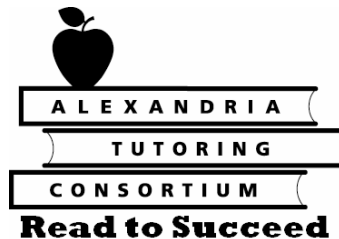
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and program supporters heard Dr. Mel Riddle, former principal at TC Williams High School and advocate for continuous efforts at literacy at all ages, as the keynote speaker. Plans are underway for the Second Annual Forum, to be held on October 16, 2008.

- For the first time, as part of ATC's performance assessment, we will confidentially share with tutors test results for those students whose parents have given ATC permission to do so. We found tutors were pleased to learn they had helped make a measurable difference in the reading proficiency of their student.
- The Board held its strategic retreat in June, 2008 to examine how the program works and what we could do to improve it. Our Board continues as a working group, and we were glad to have Peter Smeallie join this year.

And finally, we continue to be grateful to all those who have supported ATC over the year. Whether as a volunteer or as a contributor, your assistance helps us meet our mission of getting first and second graders reading on grade level. We could not do that without your help.

—James S. Roberts, Chair, Board of Directors



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Alexandria, VA 22314

<http://www.alexandriatutors.org>

## ATC Board of Directors

**Mr. James S. Roberts**, Chair – Managing Director  
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**Ms. Claudia Barnett**, Program Manager