

The READ Review

A Quarterly Publication of READ La Porte County, Inc.
Fall 2015 Edition

What's New with READ?

READ Provides Kids with Summer Reading Material

La Porte Community School Corporation held its 2015 summer school session from June 15th through July 16th at Lincoln Elementary School. This program served kindergarten through third grade.

Teachers used books provided by READ to help students improve their reading fluency and comprehension skills. These materials were originally purchased with funds received from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, and will be made available again for future summer school sessions.

Adult ESL Class Starts Soon

In 2014, READ, in partnership with Handley Elementary School, began providing free, biweekly English Language Classes to adults in the community. This successful program served a total of 36 adult students during the 2014/2015 school year, 21 of whom became regular attendees. Multiple students demonstrated improved skill and confidence in speaking English by the end of the school year.

We are pleased to announce that we are bringing this program back for the 2015/2016 school year. Classes are open to adults ages 18 and over who wish to learn English as a second language or improve their English language skills.

Students will once again learn through Rosetta Stone computer software as well as a variety of interactive activities led by English Language Instructor Faith Mooney. Classes begin on September 15th and will continue through the end of the school year.

Sessions take place every Tuesday and Thursday that school is in session from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Handley Elementary School, located at 408 W. 10th Street in La Porte.

To register for classes, contact READ at (219) 325-0875 or email readlaportecounty@gmail.com. Individuals who live within the boundaries of La Porte Community School Corporation will be given first priority for enrollment. This program is made possible in part by a generous grant from Unity Foundation of La Porte County.

2015 Scrabble Tournament

We'd love to see you at our 2015 Scrabble Tournament! This year's event will be held on Thursday, September 24th at the Best Western. The main tournament begins at 7:00 p.m., our optional "Lightning Round" at 6:50 p.m. A \$5.00 "early bird" discount is available for players who register by September 14th, so don't delay – sign up today! Current tutors may register at no cost.

Our New Website

Soon we will unveil our redesigned website at www.readlaportecounty.org. We hope you enjoy our clean, modern design and improved navigational features. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email us at readlaportecounty@gmail.com. Thanks to Catalyst Marketing Innovations, LLC for their hard work on this project!

Library Hosts Book Club Members

There *is* such a thing as a free lunch, if you are a member of a book club or would like to become one. On October 8th at 12:00 p.m., the La Porte County Public Library will host its second annual Community Book Club Luncheon at the Salvation Army, which is located at 3240 Monroe Street in La Porte.

Lunch will be provided and mystery writer Gail Lukasik will give a presentation. To register, head to laportelibrary.org or contact Mary Hedge at (219) 362-6156.

A Trio of Tutor Events

Whether you're a longtime READ volunteer or just thinking about joining our team, we hope you'll attend these exciting upcoming events. All three take place at the La Porte County Public Library.

Our big fall Tutor Training session takes place on Thursday, October 8th from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Connie Shei will discuss tutoring children from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. After a light supper, Mary Hedge will tackle tutoring English-speaking adults from 5:30 to 6:30 and ESL tutoring from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Participants may attend one or all portions of the training.

Then, join fellow tutors for a Tutor Roundtable on Friday, November 13th from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. At this informal session, new and experienced tutors can ask questions, share strategies and celebrate each other's successes.

Finally, our annual Tutor Recognition Luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 21st from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. If you've tutored in 2015, please come let us show our appreciation for your efforts through a delicious catered lunch.

Stats Update

Our data from the 2014/2015 fiscal year is in and we have some exciting improvements to share. We had a total of 54 volunteer tutors and paid instructors

during that period, up from 46 in 2013/2014. More importantly, our total instructional hours increased from 1283 to 2569.5!

Wondering who benefited from this increase in hours? In 2014/2015 we served a total of 346 students. Our ESL student total more than doubled, from 43 to 89. We also saw increases in students between the ages of 22 and 44 as well as students working at an advanced level in our curriculum.

Fall Dates to Save:

- September 15, 2015** – First day of 2015/2016 Adult ESL class at Handley Elementary School
- September 19, 2015** – Sunflower Fair in Downtown La Porte
- September 24, 2015** – Scrabble Tournament at Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center
- Thursday, October 8, 2015** – Tutor Training from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the La Porte County Public Library
- November 13, 2015** – Tutor Roundtable from 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. at the La Porte County Public Library
- November 21, 2015** – Tutor Recognition Luncheon from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the La Porte County Public Library

What We're READING...

La Porte County Public Library Staff share what they are reading!
By Sherry Thompson

Ice Cream Summer - Peter Sis

A boy with ice cream on his mind retells his summer to his grandfather. A picture book sprinkled with historic facts on ice cream.

~Sherry Thompson, Youth Services Librarian

In the Unlikely Event - Judy Blume

Judy Blume was one of my favorite authors growing up so I love that she's writing adult books now! If only R.L. Stine would start writing adult horror...

~Toni Kester, Branch and Outreach Services Librarian

The Magicians - Lev Grossman

Quentin Coldwater suddenly finds himself accepted into a prestigious college for magic. The only problem? He didn't believe magic was real until today.

~Lydia Daniels, Youth Services Librarian

Me Before You - Jojo Moyes

I'm rereading Me Before You by Jojo Moyes in anticipation of After You!

~Jenny Minich, Community Librarian

Superman: Earth One trilogy – Michael J. Straczynski

It's an alternate origin story. Clark Kent moves to Metropolis and reveals himself to the world as Superman.

~Brent McCrery, IT Public Services Paraprofessional

Attracting Native Pollinators - Xerces Society Guide

A technical and exhaustive guide to the bees and butterflies of North America, the ecosystems they rely upon and the threats they are currently facing. The recommendation by Dough Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home should be all you need to know.

~Dale Boyan, IT Professional

Night Night, Sleep Tight - Hallie Ephron

Full of suspense mixed with old Hollywood glitz and glamour. So far, so good!

~Jan Ebsch, Fish Lake Branch Supervisor

The Nesting Place - Myquillyn Smith

Practical decorating ideas paired with the examining the pressure and paralysis many feel about having the "perfect" home.

~Elizabeth Johnson, Technical Services Manager

The Residence - Kate Andersen Brower

It's an amazing read about the inner workings of the White House and the different experiences of the service staff.

~Sis Thompson, Hanna Circulation Specialist

Elizabeth and Hazel - David Margolick

It follows two teen girls, one African American, one Caucasian, in the famous Little Rock photo from 1957 through their adult years.

~Mary Hedge, Adult Services Librarian

A Series of Unfortunate Events - Lemony Snicket

I love his writing style and the quirky characters. I'm reading this kids series because I refuse to grow up!

~Shelly McGinty, Youth Services Circulation Specialist

In the Heart of the Sea - Nathaniel Philbrick

This is a fascinating account of the whale ship Essex which was rammed by a sperm whale and sank. This nonfiction title reads quickly as it tells the heartbreaking and tragic tale of the crews effort to survive 93 days on the ocean. A movie based on the book starring Chris Hemsworth is slated for December release.

~Susan Bannwart, Branch and Outreach Services Manager

It - Stephen King

When I was seven I watched part of the movie enough to be truly terrified. To this day I have yet to watch the entire movie. I challenged myself to read the book, however. The other night I after reading I was too scared to get up and walk to the bathroom.

~Brandi Renkawitz, Youth Services Circulation Specialist

**A version of this article originally appeared at <http://laportelibrary.blogspot.com>.*

READ Success Story...

Below, READ Tutor Karen Burns describes her experience using Scrabble-based activities with two sixth grade students. Thanks to Karen for all the hard work she does as a READ volunteer!

The introduction of a traditional Scrabble Board, Student Dictionary and Thesaurus brought an unexpected surprise!

Some weeks we used the board with the vocabulary words from the current week's vocabulary lesson; other weeks, we could use words from the dictionary and/or thesaurus. In both cases, no tile could be played without sharing the definition and using the word in the sentence.

The students looked forward to using the Scrabble board and dictionary every week and saw increasingly positive results. They went from getting 20% or 30% on quizzes to receiving passing scores of 70% to 80% by the end of the summer.