



October 2007

**In this edition:  
Fall Book Sale  
Assistance League of Northern VA**

Sully District e-Newsletter

### Centreville Library Fall 2007 Book Sale

Thursday Preview for Members Only– Oct. 18th from 6:30-8:30pm

Friday, Oct. 19th 10am—5pm

Saturday, Oct. 20th 10am– 4pm

Sunday, Oct. 21st Noon-5pm



Centreville Regional Library  
14200 St. Germaine Drive  
Centreville, VA 20120  
703-830-2223

To benefit the Friends of Centreville Regional Library

**PRESS RELEASE FROM:** ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® of Northern Virginia

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On Thursday, August 30, Providence Elementary School teachers and administrators welcomed students back to school with an Open House. Parents had an opportunity to meet teachers and pick up supplies while students explored their new learning environments. Supporting the orientation were volunteers from the Assistance League® of Northern Virginia (ALNV), a nonprofit volunteer organization that promotes literacy and well-being through community based programs.



Members of ALNV staffed displays in the first grade classrooms to introduce parents and students to Reading Express, a take home, books on tape program.

Reading Express was established three years ago by ALNV members to improve literacy skills for at-risk first grade students, especially those where English is a second language. The goal of the program is to encourage a positive attitude about reading and development basic reading skills by increasing a child's exposure to written and spoken English. The volunteer group supplies a tape recorder, hundreds of leveled book/tape packages and a question wheel for each student to bring home. What started out as a test program of 35 of the neediest students has, at the request of the school, increased to serve the entire first grade.

Parents and students have praised the program and have observed, "Anything that promotes an interest in reading and encourages it as a fun activity is a wonderful tool. Also, it fostered responsibility with respect to independent choice of material and care for the equipment."

Programs like Reading Readiness and Reading Express have worked in conjunction with other school based initiatives to improve literacy skills in the early developmental years to give students a strong foundation for success throughout their education. The school's administration has seen improvement in standardized test scores. "Last year's 1st grade class entered with approximately 40% below grade level, and ended with fewer than 6% of them failing to meet the end of the year reading benchmark" notes Providence Elementary School Principal, Ms. Joy Hanbury.

As a Partner in Education, Assistance League of Northern Virginia has teamed up with teachers, reading specialists and administrators at Providence Elementary

since 1999 through their Operation School Bell® programs. The philanthropic group responds to the needs of the administration and spends an average of 650 volunteer hours each year for the Reading Readiness program for kindergarteners and the Reading Express program for first grade students. Darlene Cooke, ALNV President comments that, "Our Operation School Bell programs allow ALNV members the opportunity to promote literacy by supplying volunteer hours and funding for programs that otherwise would not exist. We enhance the standard classroom curriculum and have witnessed positive growth in skills from the beginning of the year to the end. We take pride in encouraging an enthusiasm for reading and are very proud of the accomplishments being made by these young students."

This year, in addition to offering volunteer hours, implementing and maintaining the Reading Express and Reading Readiness programs, the Assistance League of Northern Virginia has, at the request of the teachers, donated 200 take home book bags for every first grade student.

For more information about this organization, visit their website at <http://northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>



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