

Richmond Times-Dispatch wins the 2018 Trivia Bee

The Richmond Times-Dispatch team of Political Editor Andrew Cain (from left), columnist Michael Paul Williams and Enterprise Editor John Ramsey took home the trophy after two hours of testing their wits against a field of 46 teams.

Richmond's best team-based trivia competition, #RVATriviaBee, was held on Wednesday, April 25th at The Hippodrome. The Trivia Bee is also The READ Center's signature fundraising event. Event participants and guests raised more than \$38,000 to support READ's adult literacy programs.

Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Patrick Henry called the Trivia Bee to order, and resolved its commencement. From there, emcees Kat Simons of Mix981 Richmond and Christina Feerick of WRIC Chanel 8News kept the fun going throughout the evening.

The team from Hunton Andrews Kurth, participating for the first time, won second place while FloGoBro, Florence Gordon Brown's team came in third place.

Columbia Gas's "Attorney General Jeff Questions" was voted "Best Name".

The event was sponsored by: Union Bank & Trust, Queen Bee Sponsor: Crouch Family in memory of Robert H. Newton, Sr. Hive Sponsor and SandsAnderson, Honey Bee Sponsor.

UPS Freight was the event's Volunteer Sponsor and Allegera Printing was the print sponsor.

We would like to say thank you again to all the sponsors who came out to play. We hope everyone had fun and will come back next year!



Your Support of The READ Center Changes Lives

#FacesofREAD: Student Success Stories



The second week of May was National Teacher Appreciation Week. The READ Center recognized and thanked all of our teachers who work hard to provide a challenging and caring learning environment. They do it with great expertise, patience, humor, and grace!

Thank you!!

The teachers pictured here, Ms. Leslie (right) and Ms. Kay (top, second from right) have each tutored and taught with The READ Center for more than 10 years. They have reached hundreds of students with their lessons and kind hearts. In addition, they both share their expertise by training READ tutors.



A READ Center volunteer recently had a Facebook birthday fundraiser for READ. He sent a note with the following: "...we raised over \$450 to help improve adult literacy for those the "system" failed, which left them unable to read their rent notices, doctor's instructions and children's report cards. While working with READ, I have heard students over and over say how **the classes and teachers have changed their lives.**"

The beautiful arrangement to the right was made by READ Center student Ms. A. Take a close look and you will see the larger "flowers" are cupcakes!

Ms. A is one of READ's talented artists, musicians and crafts people who produce beautiful works of art, music, carvings, and much more



Financial Literacy

—more than just money

Janet Sodell, READ Center teacher

At the beginning of April, The READ Center rolled out a pilot financial literacy class. Development of the class was generously supported by Union Bank and Trust.

The first six weeks are entitled “Banking and Budgeting”. Students are learning about the services banks and credit unions offer: using checking accounts, types of savings accounts and evaluating loan options, as well as creating a budget.

The next four weeks relate to “All Things Credit”. We will be going over how to evaluate credit card offers, the impact of pay day loans, what a credit score and credit report are, and things they can do to “find” money in their budget to pay off debt.

The last five weeks will involve learning how to “Grow Your Money”. Topics to be covered include the different types of investment options and how to compare them and a discussion around retirement accounts.

The classes also include guest speakers who will be presenting on topics related to internet safety, identity theft and how to choose a financial advisor. All READ Center students are invited to attend the guest speaker sessions.

Students enrolled in the class have enjoyed the opportunity to learn something new or check their understanding of financial matters.

The following two sessions are open to ALL READ students (including 1:1 tutor pairs). Both will be held at the READ office from 9:30am-11:30am.

- **June 29, 2018** Computer Security and Identity Theft (free anti-virus programs, Microsoft updates, etc.) - Learn how to protect yourself. If you are interested, please email frontdesk@readcenter.org.
- **July 27, 2018** Your Money Grow - learn more about investing. If you are interested, please email frontdesk@readcenter.org.



Did you know?

Class is in session until August 9th

In September 2017, The READ Center changed to a trimester schedule or three semesters of 15 weeks each. This schedule provides five additional weeks of instruction for students and no summer loss of knowledge. The final trimester of the 2017-2018 academic year started on April 20 and will end on August 9. READ classes will take the last three weeks of August off. The 2018-2019 academic year begins on September 4th!

The READ Center has a Bible Literacy Class

Being able to read the bible or scripture is a common goal for READ Center students. For some, it is their primary goal.

Recognizing this was a strong motivation for people to learn to READ, the Bible Literacy class was started about two years ago. The class meets once a week on Wednesday mornings and is led by READ teacher Kay McCall. The goal of the program is to help students improve their literacy skills by reading and studying their bibles.

If you'd like to learn more about the class or are interested in starting a bible literacy class in your church, contact Executive Director Karen La Forge. At karen@readcenter.org or 804-288-9930.

READ Center Continues Classroom Success



98% of students say yes when asked did they like this class.



97% of students feel the lessons were at the right pace.



92% of students say their reading has improved.



90% of students felt the classroom was good for learning.



97% of students felt tutors treated them with respect.



94% of students felt the tutor helped them reach their goals.



www.readcenter.org



Ms. Janet teaches classes at Northside Learning Center, East End Library, and Turner Road. She also developed READ's Financial Literacy Class and helps to train tutors. She deserves all the gifts and recognition she Received during Teacher Appreciation Week!

As the second semester ended, The READ Center students filled out an evaluation of their classes, teachers, and tutors. The results show students are overall level satisfied with the services they are receiving.

The READ Center strives to provide the best adult literacy services to as many students as our resources allow. When READ Center students like their classes, feel their reading is improving, feel their classrooms are good learning environments and they are respected, we feel like we are meeting our goals.

We gratefully thank all who support The READ Center. You make our work possible. You make a difference in the lives of READ Center students and their families.

THANK YOU!

