

READ Center Celebrates Student Success

The READ Center's final trimester ended on August 9 and on August 11, READ students, tutors, teachers, family, friends, READ board members and staff gathered to celebrate student success and achievement.

READ Center students were recognized for completing health and financial literacy classes, improving their reading and writing skills, and achieving their literacy goals. One student from each class was also awarded a "Star Student" medal for his/her hard work, commitment and accomplishment.

The first month of 2018-2019 classes have been completed, but the smiles and pride of the Year End Celebration still light our days and motivate READ students.



In Memory

READ Center Teacher Don Wood proudly watched his students accept their certificates of achievement and awards at the Year End Celebration. Don passed away on September 24. He touched the lives of his students, tutors and colleagues. He will be missed and he will be remembered.



Your Support of The READ Center Changes Lives

#FacesofREAD: Student Success Stories



Mr. Jasper came to READ for assistance in obtaining his GED. He passed the final section this summer. Congratulations! We are so very proud of you, your hard work and commitment.

Goals for 2018-2019

- ⇒ **Have 200 students participate** in READ Center programs. Serving more students is a READ goal and commitment.
- ⇒ **READ students make progress on their personal goals and literacy skills.** Students reading skills are assessed and goals are reviewed after each semester. Both measure progress and guide instruction.
- ⇒ **End of semester student surveys continue to show at least 95% of students “liking their class” and evaluating it “good for learning”.** Student surveys have already impacted instruction, class schedules, and classroom resources.
- ⇒ **Start a Student Council.** Student input is important to providing programs students want and need. The Council will be elected on November 6 and will provide input on programs, class locations, student recruitment, and more.

In addition, READ continues to integrate math and digital learning into instruction and will also provide health and financial literacy instruction this academic year.

As you can see by the numbers below, The READ Center had a successful 2017-2018 year.

Thank you!

It is only with your help and support that READ can provide classroom instruction, tutor training, books, math workbooks, field trips, curriculum, access to online reading and math instructional sites and more. Also, thank you to the many READ Center tutors who give their time and expertise.

The READ Center 2017-2018 Annual Report is on our website at readcenter.org, click on “News”. If you would like a copy of the Report, contact Director of Development Elizabeth Wong at elizabeth@readcenter.org.



174 Students

READ students come from all walks of life and with many different experiences. What brings them together is their need and desire to improve their literacy skills.



95% of students like their class

READ Center students are surveyed after each semester so we get their feedback on how we're doing. 95% also evaluated READ classes as "good for learning".



135 Volunteer Tutors

Volunteer tutors gave 6,814 hours of time to support READ student's efforts to improve their literacy skills. READ has a 72% tutor retention rate.



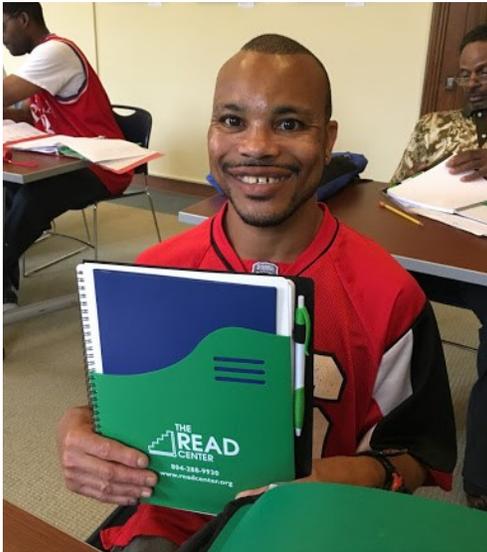
114 Student goals met

These included increased in reading ability, digital and financial literacy, improved confidence and self-esteem, citizenship, obtaining driver's licence and job certifications, jobs and more!

2018 by Bik from *The Student Voice Winter 2018*

1. For the 2018, I hope America will be peaceful and no war with other countries.
2. I hope the weather will be good and we do not have a bad hurricane.
3. I wish to learn more English in Reading class.
4. I hope my grandchildren make the right decision for their futures.

2018-2019 at The READ Center—building on success



The fall semester began on September 4th and by the end of the month. More than 120 students have registered for class. Registration for the fall semester will continue through the end of October.

The READ Center students are enjoying IXL, READ's new tool that integrates math and digital learning into instruction and improves literacy skills. IXL provides READ students the opportunity to practice reading and math online and to move up levels as their skills improve. The site is being used for classroom lessons and by students to practice outside of class.

Recognizing how important student input is for successful programming, The READ Center is starting a Student Council. We hope to have a student representative from each class who will bring ideas and suggestions on new programs, locations, student recruitment, serve as community ambassadors and advocates. Elections for the council will take place on Election Day, November 6.

The READ Center is looking for a home. The READ Center has operated classes in donated space for more than 10 years. The READ Center board of directors and staff believe it is time for READ to bring offices and classes under one roof. This change will provide the opportunity to test new programs and instruction styles. It will provide space for 1:1 tutors to meet with students and have access to the READ resource library.

READ students have received notebooks and planners from The READ Center to organize their lessons and to plan for classes and appointments.

The planners will be used for lessons on calendars and time management.

A new location for a true "READ Center" has not yet been selected. Because READ covers a large geographic service area, Chesterfield, Henrico and Richmond, READ will still operate some satellite class locations. Stay tuned for updates.



October is Dental Health Month

The health of your mouth can say a lot about your overall wellness. In October, students from VCU's Dental Hygienist program are visiting READ Center classes to educate students about the importance of dental health for their teeth and overall well being.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, The READ Center developed and piloted a health literacy class. Health issues, their own and their family's, are a significant factor that keep READ students out of class and affects their ability to improve their literacy skills. So each semester, READ will be incorporating health information into classes and providing students with information about wellness fairs, free flu shots and other free/low-cost healthcare opportunities.



Support The READ Center by shopping, loving books and through the CVC!

Join The READ Center and Richmond booklovers for the first annual RVA Booklovers Festival on 10/20 from 10-4 at Jefferson Park.

The event features authors, literacy and Virginia crafters, local cuisine and more!



Admission is free and net proceeds benefit The READ Center and EXCEL. For more information, www.rvabookloversfestival.com.



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon (same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com) that will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. If you are an Amazon shopper, please consider using AmazonSmile and selecting The READ Center as your charity. Sign up today so you are ready for holiday shopping!



Are you a Kroger shopper? If so, you can support READ with through the Community Rewards program. All you need to do is to enroll in Community Rewards using your Kroger customer card. You can enroll at www.kroger.com. The READ Center's code is QU678.



READ Center CVC Code 100098

If you work for the Commonwealth of Virginia, please consider supporting The READ Center in the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign. The READ Center is participating this year and must receive at least \$250 this year to continue to be eligible. READ staff is attending CVC Fairs around Richmond to promote giving to READ.

What's Going On?

October 20 10-4 @ Jefferson Park Free Admission	RVA Booklovers Festival Net proceeds benefit The READ Center. Please stop by our booth.
November 15	Annual Fund letters will be sent out asking you to support The READ Center. Thank you in advance for your consideration and kindness.
November 21-23	No Classes—Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27 Like The READ Center on Facebook— facebook.com/TheREADCenter!	Giving Tuesday—READ will be participating in this online international day of giving. You can support the event by giving and promoting the event on your social media.
December 13	Fall Semester ends
January 2, 2019	Winter Semester begins
April 24, 2019	The 3rd Annual Great Richmond Trivia Bee @ The Hippodrome



Save the Date!
April 24, 2019 at The Hippodrome!

The Great Richmond



Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Insert

The last week of September is National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. The READ Center recognizes the week by raising awareness of adult literacy issues in our community through articles in local newspapers, posts on our social media and events like READ Between the Wines. Below is a letter from a READ student that was submitted to the Richmond Times Dispatch Letter to the Editor. It did not appear in the paper but was posted as a READ blog.

READ Between the Wines, a spirited celebration of literacy, was held on September 26. The event brings together READ Center students, tutors, volunteers, supporters, and friends to recognize the need for The READ Center and celebrate its programs and students. The event featured READ Center students reading from their journals, favorites books and presenting a scene from A Raisin in the Sun. It was a great night. Thank you to our generous sponsors!

*Submitted by Joanna Ford,
READ Center Student*

Dear Editor:

I am a middle-aged woman who struggled with reading and writing for a long time. Although I am a high school graduate, I still have trouble reading. I did not understand how important those two things were until later in life. When I heard about the Read Center I decided to attend.

It has been ten years and I am still attending the Read Center. It has help me appreciate the value of reading. Without the Read Center I don't think I would have been able to help my kids get through school. I helped them with tools I've learned like basics of phonics, including vowels and sounding out words, breaking down long words and comprehension skills. My kids graduated in the top five of their classes. My daughter has graduated from college with a degree in biology. It did not stop with my own kids. I work with my nieces and nephews too. Two of them have now graduated from college too.

One day while working with one of my nieces she said, "How did you teach me to read and you cannot spell?" I responded, "Some of the best readers can't spell." I also said I did not want her to end up like me going through life not knowing how to read. I can now read just about anything I pick up.

While coming to the Read Center I have learned to rewrite patient information for some of the big organizations so that the patients with reading disabilities can understand what they are reading. I am now a classroom assistant at the Read Center.

The Read Center has been a big help to me through the years. Without the Center, I don't know what I would have done.





READ BETWEEN THE WINES

A SPIRITED CELEBRATION OF LITERACY



The John Daylor Team



612-0190



ASSET PROTECTION GROUP, INC.

INSURING YOUR FUTURE

800.644.9840 | apgroupinc.com



VALLEY ROAD VINEYARDS