



RIF/FYI

October, 2020

*A newsletter for volunteers and supporters of **The Reading Is Fun Program***

RIF UPDATE: Since the onset of restrictions due to the pandemic, the Executive Committee of the **Reading Is Fun Program** has been meeting frequently to discuss how to adapt our program to the new protocols in the Schenectady City Schools. The schools are now open – in a very different iteration – and we’ve been busy navigating these new educational waters in our quest to continue our mission to help Schenectady’s Pre-K through 3rd grade students improve their reading skills and build their home libraries with books we give to students with whom we read.



The good news is: **RIF** will be part of the effort to help normalize the reading and educational resources for the kids of the Schenectady School District. Members of the Executive Committee have emailed, spoken with and met with school officials and teachers, and have had a great deal of success in getting **RIF** positioned to resume its mission as soon as possible. There are a number of challenges to overcome: creating a “virtual” version of our one-to-one reading model; getting books to the students and the volunteers; scheduling reading sessions around an already difficult

school day. In the final analysis, we feel confident that we will be able to adapt our program to the “new normal” and get back to helping our kids develop those reading, language and comprehension skills they need – now more than ever before!



Some of the tools the District is using for virtual learning include Seesaw for kindergarten through 3rd grade and Google Classroom for 4th through 12th. We will be using Google Meet which the Executive Committee has employed successfully for several of their meetings. According to one teacher we heard from, they’ve been posting links to Google Meet from their 2nd grade Seesaw classroom – so we’ve got a place to start. As things develop and our plans become clearer, we will share what we learn with all of our volunteers. Training will be provided where needed. We’re extremely grateful for the very positive responses from the volunteers who are willing to take part in this virtual adaptation of **RIF**.



LIBRARY NEWS: The **RIF** Library in The Faith United Methodist Church at 811 North Brandywine Avenue in Schenectady is still closed but the church has begun to reopen on a very limited basis. Library Coordinator Mary Crimp-Batzinger has been in contact recently with a member of the Church's COVID Response team and is working to get access to the books, although it will remain limited. Volunteers will not be allowed in the building at this time. Updates on library access and book availability will be emailed and will be posted to our website – www.readingisfun.org. The RIF Library cell number is **518-986-3156**.

SCRABBLE-RAMA TO BENEFIT RIF - CANCELLED: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Scrabble-Rama that was scheduled for Saturday, October 24th at the Schenectady High School cafeteria has been cancelled. We'll let you know when it can be rescheduled.

THE GRAND READING JAMBOREE: When this stupid virus leaves us alone, we'll hope to reschedule the Jamboree that was intended to happen in April. We'll let you know when and where.

SCHENECTADY SCHOOL CALENDAR:

<http://www.schenectady.k12.ny.us/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=15062850>

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES: *To be announced.*

LIBRARY DATES: *To be announced.*

RIF LEADERSHIP:

Al Magid

Founder & Executive Director



Valerie Rivera

Volunteer Coordinator



Mary Lou Russo,

Chief Operating Officer



Mary Crimp-Batzinger

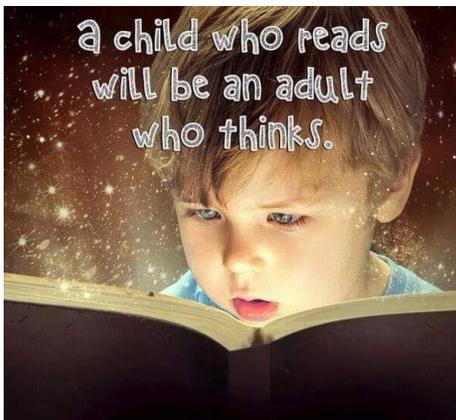
Library Coordinator



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Follow us online at www.readingisfun.org and like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingIsFunProgram/>. You can get the most up-to-date information about RIF and share your experiences, tips and best practices as a seasoned – or brand new – volunteer.
- If you haven't done so already, ask to be added to the RIF Volunteers Facebook page. There's a ton of information and ideas specifically designed for you as an RIF Volunteer. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1644298179159483>
- Get to know our leadership team and contact them at any time by going to: www.readingisfun.org/contact-us
- Send us an email at any time with questions or comments to readingisfunabc123@gmail.com

We welcome your feedback about this newsletter. Let us know what kind of information you'd like to see in future editions.



Sally & Al Magid, RIF Executive Director