

# READ ALOUD

WEST VIRGINIA

NEWSLETTER

## Good medicine

### Future doctors read to children at WVU hospital

By Kaitlyn Guynn

In the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at WVU's Ruby Memorial Hospital, an infant was connected to various monitors, including one that registered the beep, beep, beep of the baby's rapid heart rate.

A medical student read to the baby.

"The child's heart rate slowed down to a relaxed state," said Katie Ridenour, School Intervention Specialist at Ruby Memorial Hospital.

The student is participating in a new effort of the medical school and Read Aloud West Virginia.

Ridenour, a former teacher in Marion County, works to help children maintain as many normal childhood routines and activities as possible while they are in the hospital.

Having seen the success of Read Aloud in Marion County, Ridenour reached out to the organization, said Read Aloud Executive Director Mary Kay Bond.



Photo courtesy of Katie Ridenour, WVU

**First-year medical student Ryan Cook reads *Duck & Goose Find a Pumpkin by Tad Hills* to a child in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.**

They worked together to organize 13 medical students to read regularly to pediatric patients, sometimes two to four children at a time.

The educational benefits of reading aloud to children are well established. Volunteers have

witnessed other benefits among these children. In addition to the baby who was soothed, children and their parents are pleased when readers enter the hospital room.

"For a volunteer to come and  
(continues on page 6)

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**Join Team Read and WVU Coach Neal Brown at Read-A-Palooza 2019 on June 6**  
Details and ticket order forms on page 8

**READ-A-PALOOZA 2019: JOIN TEAM READ WITH WVU FOOTBALL COACH NEAL BROWN**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH 4:30 - 6:30 | UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON RIGGLE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I/we plan to attend. Enclosed is payment for \_\_\_\_\_ individuals. (Tickets: \$10)

I/we are unable to attend but would like to make a donation to Read Aloud West Virginia. Enclosed is a donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make checks payable to Read Aloud West Virginia, Inc. PO Box 1766, Charleston, WV 25301

# For summer, create opportunities to grow

Ever since I was a small child I have found something magical about growing a garden. My mother was not particularly enamored with gardening, but to her credit, she opened the door for me. When I was around 3 or 4, she prepared the soil so I could experience the magic of watching something grow.

As we prepare for the end of school and beginning of summer, these thoughts have swirled in my head. Summer is a time for magical growth in children. They grow year-round, of course, but they do experience “seasons.”

We are ending the school season, when teachers have worked to help them develop skills they need for reading, and we are beginning the summer season, which offers children more time than ever to use and strengthen these skills.

The key word is “offers.” Some families will work to provide opportunities to take advantage of less structured schedules and make time to go to the library, plan a family read aloud each night or ask a child to read to a parent or grandparent while the adult is preparing dinner or working on a car.

Making time to encourage reading is much like the gift my mother gave me when she prepared the soil for that first garden. She gave me a wonderful opportunity. In the summer, families provide opportunities for swimming, going to the beach, playing ball, etc.

At Read Aloud we want families to remember to give their children opportunities to grow their reading skills.

Research shows that some families do just that, and children return to school in the fall with stronger reading skills. Other families do not, and teachers must spend weeks or months getting their skills back to the level they achieved the previous year.

Athletes know they need to keep in shape in their “off” season. Readers need to keep their skills in shape over the summer, too.

In this issue, you will read about projects we have undertaken to encourage families to MAKE time for reading over the summer. Our Summer Book Binge projects (next page) enable us to let children select the books they want to read over the summer. The UPS Store award (below) allows us more opportunities to put the equipment of

reading (Books!) in the hands of children.

My challenge to you is to find ways to share your love of reading and give the children you care about the opportunity to build their reading skills. To that end you will find some book reviews and suggestions you and the child you love can read together.

Borrowing books from the local library and participating in summer reading programs are two ways families can easily (and at no cost!) provide the opportunity to build reading skills and wonderful memories.

A father recently told me about a conversation he had with his 30-something daughter about favorite books they read together when she was a child. He was stunned by the depth of her memories.

Make this your family’s most rewarding summer yet — build lifelong reading memories. Families provide the opportunity, and watch your children bloom!

**Mary Kay Bond**  
Executive Director  
Read Aloud West Virginia

**“Reading aloud with children is known to be the singlemost important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.”**

— Marilyn Jager Adams, *Beginning to Read: Thinking and Learning About Print*, 1990

## Read Aloud wins \$10,000 worth of books from UPS Store

The UPS Store, Inc. named Read Aloud West Virginia one of 10 nonprofit organizations across the country to receive \$10,000 worth of Scholastic books to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Toys for Tots® Literacy Program, which promotes children’s literacy in low-income and disadvantaged communities across the United States.

Kanawha County volunteer Lesley McCallister nominated Read Aloud, one of more than a thousand nominees. A selection committee chose 10 winners based on their mission to serve children in underserved communities, especially by providing educational resources and enrichment.

“As a company committed to the cause of children’s literacy, The UPS Store,



Inc. is thrilled to support the nonprofit organizations and schools selected for our Literacy Recognition Program,” said Tim Davis, president of The UPS Store, Inc. “These nonprofit organizations exemplify a shared vision of helping children succeed through education, with a special emphasis

on the importance of learning to read.”

“It’s truly thrilling,” Read Aloud Executive Director Mary Kay Bond told the Charleston Gazette Mail. “I think it is a real tribute to the work our volunteers have done, and to the people who have donated in order to help Read Aloud reboot. We’ve had a lot of individuals and corporate sponsors and foundations that have really decided this is something we’re committed to. We want to make this commitment to the children of West Virginia.”

Already, the gift has enabled Read Aloud West Virginia to add a fourth school, Kanawha’s George C. Weimer Elementary, to this year’s Summer Book Binge, to send children home from school for the summer with books that children choose themselves.

# If you give a kid a bag of books...

If you heard of research that shows \$60 worth of books can make the difference between whether students lose reading skills over the summer, or whether they maintain it, would that motivate you to put

books in children's hands?

That's what happened to Read Aloud Executive Director Mary Kay Bond.

With help from the Mary B. Nickell Foundation, the Carter Family Foundation and Brookfield Renewable, Read Aloud's Summer Book Binge is now in its fourth year.

The number of schools involved has grown from one to four. Crichton Elementary in Greenbrier County, now funded by the Mary B. Nickell Foundation, was the site of the first school with a grant from the Hollowell Foundation.

Last summer, Clear Fork Elementary in Raleigh and Gauley Bridge Elementary in Fayette followed. A fourth school, George C. Weimer Elementary in Kanawha, will participate this year thanks to the award from the UPS Store Inc.

Summer learning loss is a big problem. Children who do not have stimulating summer activities, such as parents or grandparents who read to them, can lose months of progress over the summer. Over the years, the loss is cumulative, so by graduation, students can be a year or more behind their peers.

Reading, just for fun, is an antidote. Students who read for pleasure over the summer maintain or even gain skills.

Book choice and ownership are motivating, so Read Aloud works with those schools to let children see, hold and preview books in advance. Teachers talk about the books, offering their own experience and recommendations. Then each child in the school "orders" books, including a couple alternates in case their favorites run out.

On distribution day, each child gets a tote bag of his or her chosen books, and each

book plate printed with the child's name.

Since the first summer book distribution in 2016, results have been promising.

On the 2014-15 statewide annual assessment, 30 percent of Crichton students scored proficient in reading, while the overall state score was 46.36 percent of students. While the state score has dropped slightly since then, Crichton's is trending upward, standing at 57.58 percent of students scoring proficient as of the 2017-18 school year.

Crichton Principal Donna Nickell credits three things:

- Curriculum called Read Well where teachers work with whole classes, small groups and individuals to tailor instruction to students' needs.

- Extra time and attention for children who need it.

- **And Read Aloud West Virginia's summer book distribution.**

"I do attribute it to the books they're getting, to Read Aloud, and to the Read Well program," Nickell said. "I know the kids love the books over the summer," she recalled at the start of the school year. "They were so excited. I've heard girls talking about books they got."

At Clear Fork Elementary School, first grade teacher Lisa Cabell, said in her classroom, she can tell the difference between children who read or who have been read to at home and those who are not readers.

Even before the school's computer assessment tool was functional this school year, Ms. Cabell said, she perceived improvement in some children's reading skills at the start of the school year. She believes summer books and enthusiasm generated around giving children books at the end of the last school year contributed to the improvement.

"I would like to see it again. I think it would be very helpful," she said. "Our area is a very rural area. A lot of kids are not able to go the library, and they may not be able to afford their own books," Cabell said. "We have the Bookmobile that comes to school and gives them a chance to get a book, but it's great to have a book that you don't have to give back."

## Make summer a time for growth

For decades, researchers, teachers and parents have observed that children who read for pleasure during summer break tend to have better scores and understanding in school. Children must have the "equipment" and opportunity to read for fun over the summer.

**Here are some ways to make reading for fun likely to happen this summer:**

- **Keep books around.** Check them out of the public library. Keep a few in the car.

- **Make time to read every day.** Even a few minutes count. No quizzes or tests. Just fun. If the book isn't enjoyable, give it back and try another.

- **Give books as gifts.**

- **Ask readers what they like.** Get recommendations from other readers until you find something enjoyable to you and the children in your life.

- **List five books you would like to read this summer.** Share your goal.

- **Organize a book swap,** suggests Donalyn Miller, author of *Reading in the Wild: The Book Whisperer's Keys to Cultivating Lifelong Reading Habits*. suggests. In her school, teachers and students donate books and receive tickets. Then they browse and choose a "new" book in exchange for each ticket.

- **Pack books for trips or errands.** Keep a book to read while standing in line.

- **Host a library card sign-up event,** Miller suggests. Invite librarians to share details of summer reading programs.

- **Read aloud to children, even after they are able to read on their own.** Children take their cue for what is important from the adults around them.

Children who read during the summer are more likely to maintain or even gain reading skills, report Richard L. Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen in their book *Summer Reading: Closing the Rich/Poor Reading Achievement Gap*.

Citing the same research, Stephen D. Krashen points out in *The Power of Reading* that reading just one book over the summer was associated with a small improvement in reading comprehension. Reading five books over the summer can stop summer learning loss.

Among low-income children, summer reading loss accounts for about 80 percent of the reading achievement gap compared to wealthier classmates.

"What you may find surprising is just how consistently making books available to children from low-income families and to struggling readers enhances reading achievement during the summer months," Allington writes.



# Flashlight, book lure young Cabell County readers

By Amanda Schwartz

With support from WSAZ Children's Charities and the Cynthia Lorentz-Cook Award, Read Aloud West Virginia of Cabell County and the Cabell County Reading Council are teaming up to host a Flashlight Reading Night to encourage parents and children to read together this summer!

The event at Guyandotte Elementary is a great example of the way our Read Aloud chapters across the state innovate and create programs that work for the people they serve.

If you follow our events, you'll notice that every county has a different way of engaging students and parents outside of the classroom. Some counties do Snuggle & Reads, where children receive a blanket and

book and are encouraged to snuggle and read with their parents. In other areas, Mother Goose presentations are popular. This event involves a volunteer dressing up as Mother Goose to emphasize the importance of nursery rhymes on phonemic development. At the end, children receive a book of nursery rhymes to take home. All of our events have a core element of sending high interest, high quality literature home with children.

This flashlight event in Cabell County is a fun new take on an old classic. Like most of our events, it features a presentation, with tips and tricks for parents on how to keep children engaged. Then students receive a flashlight and a book of their choice that they can read with their parents. They get to take both home at the end of the event!

The genius of giving children flashlights

in conjunction with books is that it opens new opportunities for reading — how many late night car rides would be improved by a flashlight and a book? It also makes reading just a little, tiny bit rebellious, when you think about a kid staying up past bedtime, reading under the sheets. How many kids do you know who want to do something simply because they've been told not to? We know many. And while we'd never actively encourage children to break their parents' rules, when the alternative to a book under those blankets is a phone or a tablet, we (and their developing brains and vocabularies) would much prefer they have a book.

*Amanda Schwartz is the communications and development director of Read Aloud West Virginia.*



## See you at the ballpark on May 12

Join Read Aloud West Virginia at Appalachian Power Park in Charleston on Sunday, May 12.

The West Virginia Power has invited Read Aloud to the game against the Kannapolis White Sox. First pitch is at 2:05 p.m.

Visit with Read Aloud volunteers, sign up for more information and learn how families can help children maintain or even gain reading skill over the summer -- all while having a good time.

**Happy Mother's Day.**



- About Us >
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## Check out our fresh new website

Find more updates, book suggestions and resources.

[readaloudwv.org](http://readaloudwv.org)

## Support the work of motivating children to want to read

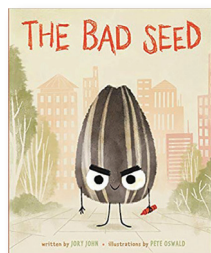
**How can you help Read Aloud West Virginia keep books in the hands and on the minds of children across West Virginia?**

- **Buy a ticket or sponsorship to Read-a-Palooza, our annual fundraiser.** Or send your employees, friends or family members.
- **Kroger Community Rewards.** Kroger Plus card shoppers can log in to their accounts and choose Read Aloud West Virginia to receive a percentage based on your purchases throughout the year. If you've already done this, can you recruit someone else?
- **Amazon smile.** If you shop at Amazon, order through smile.amazon.com instead, but first choose Read Aloud West Virginia Inc. to receive a commission from all your purchases.

**Thank you to all our donors and supporters.**

# Ten to try: Good pairings

Our volunteers regularly pair books that go well together during a single read aloud sitting. Last summer, Christy Schwartz of the West Virginia Campaign for Grade Level Reading told volunteers at the Read Aloud conference that reading multiple texts on a subject helps students to improve their reading skill. Just for the fun of it, here are some of our volunteers' listener-tested combinations:



## The Bad Seed

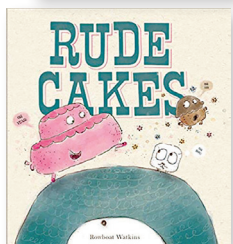
by John Jory and

## Rude Cakes

by Rowboat Watkins

are two charming, upbeat narratives all about teaching children about being kind and considerate to others. They pair well together with their complementary art styles and similar, silly takes on how one can be "A baaaaaaaaaad seed." In each, the main character decides to change his ways from bad or rude and try (though they might not always succeed) to be nicer to those around them. Pre-K - 1

— Amanda Schwartz,  
Communications and Development  
Director



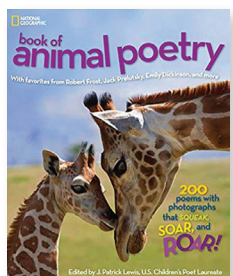
## The Book With No Pictures

B.J. Novak

## The Book With No Pictures

by B.J. Novak is a great book to pair with any book that is too short to fill your allotted time. The children ask over and over for me to re-read this book. I have read it to kindergarten and second grade and it is without question the favorite of every child. I have great fun reading it, too.

— Aletta Moffett,  
Marion County Chapter President



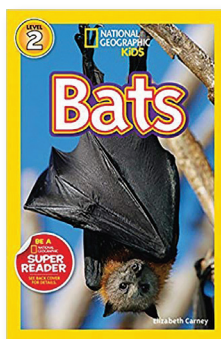
## Book of Animal Poetry

edited by J. Patrick Lewis,  
U.S. Children's Poet Laureate.

The poetry is easy to understand for elementary students, the National Geographic photos are beautiful, and students learn about familiar and unfamiliar animals. The highlight is that a couple poems are rap poems (e.g., "Polar Bear Rap") with the students participating by stomping their feet to the beat. There are always requests to do them second and third times!

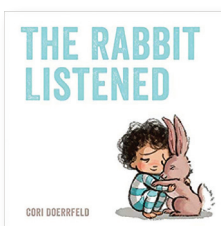
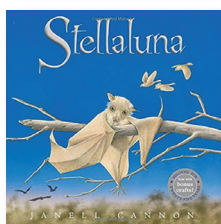
A little dose of poetry gives the students something different and pairs well with other animal books.

— Tom Tinder, Bridgeview Elementary,  
Kanawha County



Based on the undocumented notion that the boys prefer "fact" books and the girls prefer "fiction" books, I open with **Bats** by Elizabeth Carney, a National Geographic Kids Book, full of bat facts. I follow with **Stellaluna** by Janell Cannon, a beautifully illustrated story of a baby bat that gets separated from its mother and is raised by a bird family before reuniting with the bat mother. It's a great story that comes together bat facts with bird facts. The whole class really enjoys both aspects of the reading and it makes for a good session.

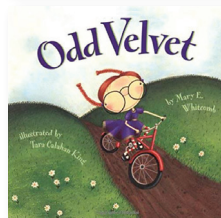
— Casey Willson,  
Gerrardstown Elementary School,  
Berkeley County



**The Rabbit Listened** by Cory Doerrfeld, is a favorite of Executive Director Mary Kay Bond. One day Taylor concentrated hard and built something amazing with his blocks. Then disaster struck. The way different characters react to little Taylor's setback will be recognizable to everyone.

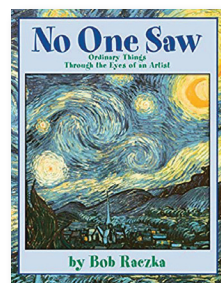
I read this along with **Odd Velvet** by Mary Whitcomb, the story of Velvet, who is thought to be so strange in her kindergarten class because her teacher gifts and birthday party games don't come from a store. It's a message kids really need to hear. K-3

— Bob Pepper,  
Sissonville Elementary, Kanawha County



**Camille and the Sunflowers** by Laurence Anholt tells the story of painter Vincent Van Gogh and the postman's family in Arles, whom Van Gogh painted, along with his famous sunflowers and Starry Night. Then we read the short rhyming book **No One Saw** by Bob Raczka, featuring a full-page example of a different artist on each page. When we get to, "No one saw stars like Vincent Van Gogh," students are thrilled by their recognition, and usually curious about other artists in the book. 3-5

— Dawn Miller,  
Piedmont Elementary, Kanawha County  
Have a title to recommend to your fellow  
Read Aloud volunteers? Tell us about it:  
newsletter@readaloudwv.org.



# A reader gives, and gets, a personal gift

By Jennifer Bonnette Funk

What might seem like a small act of kindness at first can turn out to have a big and positive impact on someone's world.

Each week on my day off, I read aloud as part of Read Aloud West Virginia. I read to three classrooms at West Preston School. The other day, I was reading a story to one of the classes rather excitedly with silly voices, as I often do, and one of the students handed me a note. She was so proud to give me the letter and was smiling so brightly.

In the note, she wrote, "Dear Mrs. Funk, you are the best reader and the best voice maker. There are no other persons like you. You are the best of the best." The note included a hand drawn picture of me reading a book to the class.

It was so unexpected and overwhelmingly sweet. I was so moved by her act of kindness, I wrote her a letter back. In the letter, I said that she had made my day much brighter when I read her wonderful letter. Then, I said that getting to read to her and the other students brings me joy and is the highlight of my week.

I brought the letter the next time I read to the class. I gave it to her before I started reading and I explained to the class that if any of them would like to write me a letter,

too, I would be happy to write them back.

Then, something magical happened. They all took out paper and pencils and started quickly writing me letters. As they finished their letters, one by one they proudly presented them to me.

And, here is what some of them wrote to me:

"I love your personality and how you read books that I have never heard of. Thank you for reading."

"I hope you always keep reading to us."

"Thank you for reading books and being very nice and so cool and just COOL."

"I like when you read to me."

"You are the best reader, and if you ever get sick I hope you feel better."

"The two things are I love Thursdays mostly when you come her and make my days sunny."

"I like it when you come in please come in all year long. You are like another teacher to me and you are awesome. Always remember you are always awesome."

"You make me happy."

Then, one of the students presented me with a book she had written. It was titled "Who is my favorite reader?"

I asked her if she would like to read it

since every author should get to read their own story out loud. She was so excited. She read the story with such excitement and pride. The other students thought it was so cool she was reading to them, too. In the story, she said that her favorite reader had blue eyes, blond hair, is pretty, reads with the best voices and that her name is Mrs. Funk.

We all clapped for her and I even shed some tears. What a wonderful sight to see one of the students having the courage to get up in front of all the other students filled me with such pride.

It is such a blessing and a gift for a teacher to open up their classroom to volunteers for Read Aloud.

What a wonderful gift too these young children gave to me with their kind words of gratitude. And, it all started with one small act of kindness that multiplied into an entire classroom of students being thoughtful and generous.

With actions we are shaping and growing the world we want to live in for the better.

Please consider volunteering for Read Aloud at your local school or for an organization where you can mentor and reach the next generation. In doing so, they might just surprise you and inspire you, too.

*Jennifer Bonnette Funk is a Read Aloud West Virginia volunteer at West Preston School in Arthurdale, Preston County.*

(continued from page 1)

knock, and just visit to read to you, their faces light up knowing that it's not for a medical procedure," Ridenour said.

"It's been great, with positive feedback from the families," she said. "It's a nice program, and it's been really satisfying."

In addition to serving children in the hospital, medical students get the opportunity to discover the value of reading to children from birth so they can model and encourage read aloud habits in their own practices.

"Absolutely," said Levi Snedegar, a first-year medical student who plans to take the experience into his practice, whether that turns out to be pediatrics or primary care.

"I was actually in a program where we would shadow a child visit," he said. "They would receive a book based on their age or cognitive development."

"We want to connect to health care providers," Bond said. "Health care providers see children at much earlier stages of

Read Aloud West Virginia wants to partner with health care providers around the state to help them help families, and to motivate children to want to read. To explore the possibilities, contact us at [stateoffice@readaloudwv.org](mailto:stateoffice@readaloudwv.org).

development, and we seek to reach children at the earliest stage possible. It is a critically important time and sets the tone for a child's education."

When children are read to from birth, "They come already primed and ready before they enter the schoolhouse door," she said.

The American Academy of Pediatrics began recommending reading to children every day from birth in 2014. Reading to babies not only strengthens their bonding with caregivers, but increases their language skills, including vocabulary. Reading aloud to

children boosts brain activity and social and emotional development.

At the WVU School of Medicine, students feel the benefit of reading to children, as well as their young patients.

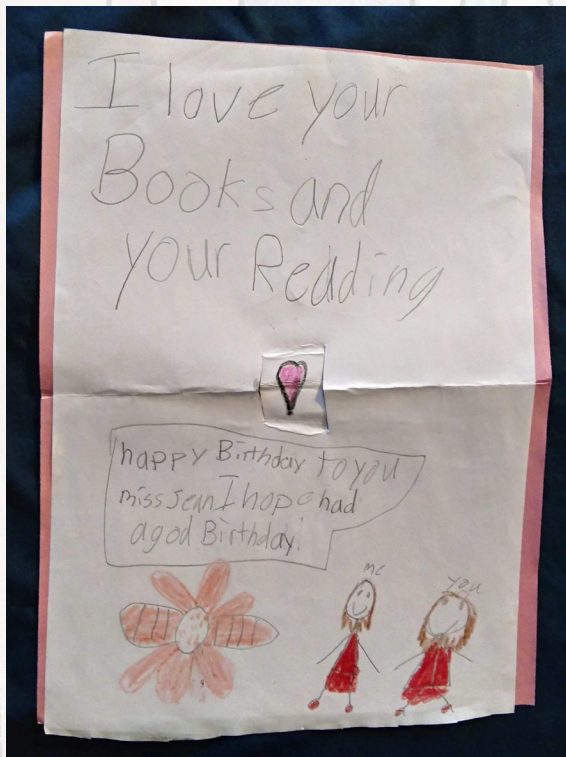
"A lot of them are volunteering because they have pediatrics in mind," Ridenour said. "It gives them good exposure for treating [patients] as a whole, and not just about treating them medically. But emotionally, cognitively, and physically as well."

"This program is an integral part of their inpatient care, and a rewarding part as well, for first- and second-year medical students," Snedegar said. "If this program was implemented across the country, there would be less of a burnout rate."

"It is an absolutely awesome experience. Too often you get tied down with studying and not allowed to actually visit with the children."

*Kaitlyn Guynn is a graduating senior at the University of Charleston.*

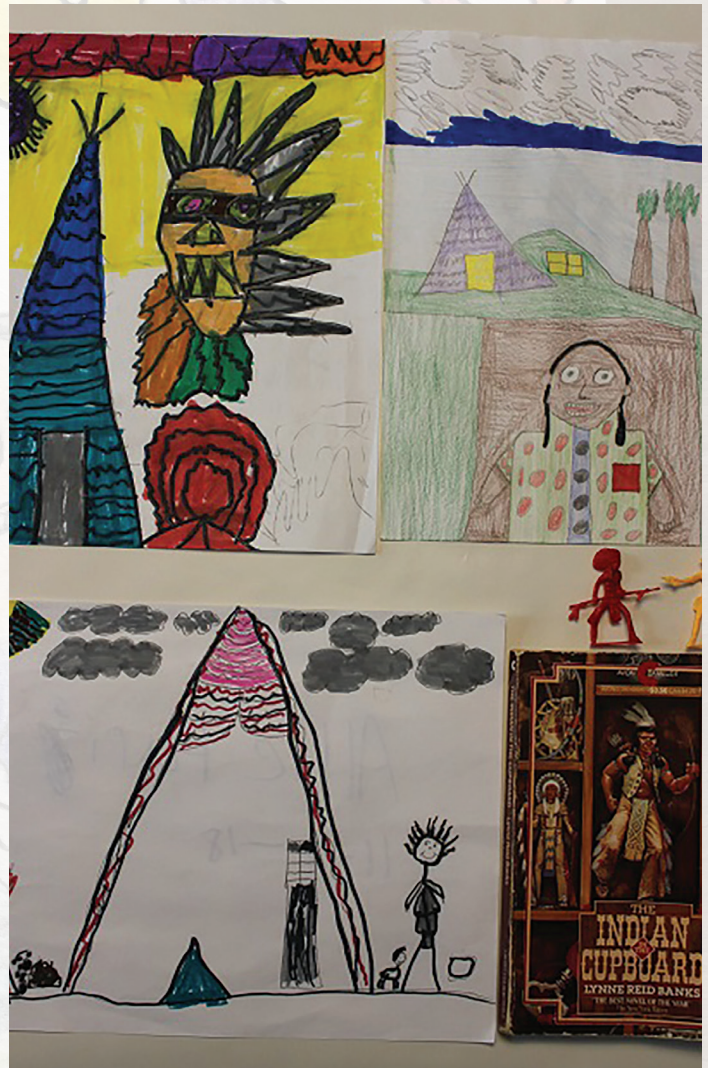
# Letters



**Dear Read Aloud,**

For an amazing three years, I have been the Read Aloud volunteer for Ms. Kimble's third grade class at Coalton Elementary School. The Randolph County students routinely thank me for reading, and on my birthday I am amazed with awesome handmade birthday greetings. A great example is the attached card.

**Jean Browning**  
*Randolph County  
 Read Aloud Volunteer*



**Dear Read Aloud,**

Attached, please find a collage of several drawings from the sixth grade students where our daughter teaches at Robert L. Bland Middle School in Weston, Lewis County.

I read there once a week, and they know how much I enjoy artwork. I love *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks and hand out plastic cowboys and Indians about halfway through the book and tell them that all they are missing is the cupboard.

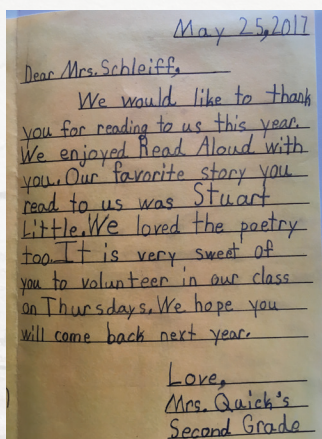
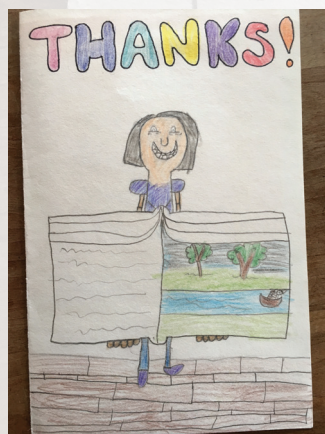
You can see the little wheels turning. I love to stimulate the imagination — what if...?

What a rich history our country has – and life's lessons that go along with it.

I also read in three pre-K classes with Upshur County Head Start in Buckhannon, including one which my wife teaches.

The smiles and hugs are the most wonderful rewards. Thanks and best wishes,

**Donald W. "Woody" Martin, II**  
*French Creek*



**Margaret Schleiff, who reads at Frankford Elementary School in Randolph County, shared this thank-you card from her students. The book cover is *Stuart Little* by E.B. White.**

**Send your letters or pictures of your students' notes and artwork to [newsletter@readaloudwv.org](mailto:newsletter@readaloudwv.org).**



**READ-A-PALOOZA 2019: JOIN TEAM READ**  
**WITH WVU FOOTBALL COACH NEAL BROWN**  
 THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH 4:30 - 6:30 | UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON RIGGLEMAN ROTUNDA



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes! I/we plan to attend. Enclosed is payment for \_\_\_ individuals. (Tickets: \$40)
- I/we are unable to attend but would like to make a tax deductible donation to Read Aloud West Virginia. Enclosed is a donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make checks payable to Read Aloud West Virginia. Reserved tickets will be held at the door. Mail this form to Read Aloud WV, PO Box 1784, Charleston WV, 25326. You may also purchase tickets online at [readaloudwv.org](http://readaloudwv.org) or call (304) 345-5212.



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Join Team Read  
 and WVU Coach  
 Neal Brown:  
**Read-A-Palooza 2019**  
**on June 6**

Join Read Aloud and WVU Football Coach Neal Brown in building excitement for books and reading at our annual fundraiser, Read-A-Palooza, at the University of Charleston Riggleman Rotunda on June 6!

Though we may be a little later than usual this year, Read-A-Palooza is sure to be bigger and better than ever with a new venue courtesy of our partnership with the University of Charleston Education Department, and our 2019 theme: "Join Team Read," exploring how we can create a culture that values reading in the same way we do sports.

The event will open at 4:30 p.m., and Coach Brown will give his remarks at 5:15 p.m. As always, we'll have appetizers, beer and wine, and a silent auction to augment the lively conversation and good company that's a staple of Read-A-Palooza. As our largest fundraiser of the year, proceeds from the event help fund Read Aloud programs, which strive to engage all



members of our communities in motivating children to want to read.

Tickets are \$40 prior to June 6 or \$50 at the door, but for those looking for a little more face time with Coach Brown, we're offering a special pre-event reception with him for sponsors of \$1,000 or more. Sponsorships also come with tickets and public recognition, including logo displays at the event, depending on the level. To find out more about sponsorships, please visit [readaloudwv.org](http://readaloudwv.org) or call the state Read Aloud office at 304-345-5212. To buy tickets, clip the order form above, or visit [readaloudwv.org](http://readaloudwv.org).

We hope you will join us as we celebrate Read Aloud's progress and look forward to new reading adventures!

**UPDATE YOUR CONTACTS**

Executive Director Mary Kay Bond's e-mail address has changed.

You may reach her at [mbond@readaloudwv.org](mailto:mbond@readaloudwv.org)

**Unsure who to write to?**

Send any inquiry to [stateoffice@readaloudwv.org](mailto:stateoffice@readaloudwv.org)

Letters and newsletter submissions:  
[newsletter@readaloudwv.org](mailto:newsletter@readaloudwv.org)

P.O. Box 1784, Charleston, WV 25326  
 304-345-5212

[readaloudwv.org](http://readaloudwv.org)

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