Welcome to the first issue of the CUA DC Reads Newsletter.

This newsletter is for you... the CUA DC Reads tutors. It is a way to find out how DC Reads is doing and more specifically to learn about the other sites Catholic is involved with.

The newsletter will also be a way for me to acknowledge any outstanding tutors or sites for the exceptional work that they do.

You all give so much of your time and effort to help over 200 children in the DC area. Your presence alone is making a difference, and I thank you for that.

The newsletter is also a way to share some stories, reflections, or problems that you may be experiencing on site. This way we may be able to help one another.

I will also include an educational corner for some ideas on games, pointers, or anything that may be helpful when you tutor.

I am asking for your participation in this newsletter. Please send me via email (mendozae@cua.edu) any ideas for the newsletter. I am looking for reflections on your experience, any ideas for the educational corner, funny stories, frustrations... ANYTHING! Please help.

We have had an awesome start to the school year! CUA DC Reads has had a 38% increase in tutors compared to last fall. There was a lot of recruiting done in the beginning of the year, especially during freshman orientation. I was also able to go to some education and social work classes to talk about DC Reads.

How did you hear about DC Reads? Was this year’s theme: DC Reads: Come Tutor Me! appealing?

Have any ideas that we can use for next year? Just let me know! We will be recruiting again in the Spring.

Inside this issue:
- Beacon House 2
- Calvary 2
- Heads Up 2
- Higher Achievement 3
- La Salle Elementary 3
- St. Anthony’s 3
- Educational Corner 4

DC Reads 38% Increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2003</th>
<th>Fall 2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of tutors:</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Study Students:</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers:</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman:</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores:</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors:</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beacon House

Beacon House is only a short distance from campus... so short that the site picks-up CUA students right in front of McMahon Hall.

Beacon House is a new site that CUA is working with and everything is going great! It is a non-profit after school program that assists at-risk youth educationally, socially, athletically, and culturally. Over 20 CUA students volunteer at the Beacon House.

One of the reasons why there are so many CUA tutors at the Beacon House is because of its schedule. Volunteers are only required to tutor one or two days a week. This is perfect for the student who is really busy but still wants to help out in the community.

These volunteers get props for enduring a two-day, 5 hour training session on math and reading. In addition to the 2 hour orientation night. They must be experts now!

With so many volunteers, there were some problems with not having enough children to tutor. But there have been some recruitment and adjustments made so things are working out.

Calvary Bilingual Multicultural Learning Center

Getting to Calvary takes just a five minute drive or a short ride on the metro. The center is located in a predominantly Latino neighborhood, so therefore it serves mostly Latino students.

Calvary tutors have been tutoring since the end of September. They have been working one-on-one with their students, helping them in reading and math.

These tutors must love Calvary and the children at the site because they wake-up early every Saturday morning to be on site by 9:45. Could you wake up that early on a Saturday morning?

Calvary was just officially approved to be a charter school. Through the DC Reads program, Calvary was able to expand its tutoring program. They were able to add 30 kids to the program!

Heads-Up at Plummer Elementary is the site with the most CUA tutors. There are over 30 tutors who go Monday-Friday to tutor in reading.

But reading is not the only thing that Heads-Up tutors help with.

Friday, October 17th was Friday Fun Club and the theme for the day was Kid Scientist Club. Tutors and students made volcanoes, slime, gak, and dancing raisins. Now that sounds like some messy fun!

Heads-up tutors also give a couple hours every other Sunday to work on lesson plans. They discuss any positive and negative things that are going on and they prepare for the up-coming weeks.

Thanks for all of your extra time and dedication!
Higher Achievement

Higher Achievement was the last of the DC Reads sites to get started. It had its orientation during the second week of October.

This site is also a new site to the CUA DC Reads program. It is a program that works with 5th-8th grade students, emphasizing academic excellence and community leadership. It is different from most of the CUA sites because it helps students who are academically average to above average. Mentors help these students enhance their skills so they may reach their highest potential.

During the training session, the mentors were taught that there is a "culture" in the Higher Achievement program. This "culture" is a way that student's self-esteem will be raised. Every student will stand and raise their chin when they speak. If students or mentors use slang, suck their teeth, or use any inappropriate language they will be fined from $.05 to $1.00. The money goes into a fund which enables the program to buy educational games.

The "culture" of Higher Achievement also sees the students not as students or tutees, but as 'scholars.' These 'scholars' are never told they are wrong but they are told to 'think further.'

This program is definitely a unique program.

The program shares space with Heads Up at Plummer Elementary.

St. Anthony's School

St. Anthony's is finally getting into a routine of things! Caroline Cook, a CUA sophomore has taken the challenge of implementing a tutoring program at St. Anthony's. The purpose of the program is to ultimately give St. Anthony's children extra assistance in reading and math. The program is also designed to give CUA tutors more guidance and organization.

It is quite a big challenge to take... but the DC Reads program is thankful for Caroline and all of her hard work!

In addition we thank all of the CUA tutors at St. Anthony's for their patience. It has been rough for a while, but we expect a smooth road ahead of us.

St. Anthony and CUA tutors

La Salle Elementary

La Salle Elementary is one of our new sites. CUA students tutor from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Because of the early time period, we can only have a few CUA students at this site. These 9 dedicated CUA students go to La Salle and tutor specifically in reading.

La Salle Elementary is affiliated with the national DC Reads program and follows their specific curriculum. CUA tutors are given this curriculum to follow when tutoring their students.

Teaching the ABC's and basic reading skills were some difficult points for La Salle tutors. It is quite a difficult task when it has been years since we learned the ABC's.

There are some easy ways to teach the ABC's and you can look on page 4 for some tips and ideas!

Sharon Bell Mathis, CUA Alum 1975, will also be participating in the Sharon Bell Mathis Story Telling Event, during Homecoming Weekend. She will be reading some of her children's books to St. Anthony's students.

We look forward to bringing some of our DC Reads children on to campus!

Thanks: to Brandon Pettit for volunteering his time to drop off & pick-up some of our sites. You are a life saver!
Do You Know your Team Leader?

Are you wondering who you should contact if you are going to miss a day of work or volunteering? Do you have a problem with your site supervisor? When are timesheets due? More importantly: when do I get paid?

If you have any questions or problems please contact your team leader.

Sara Pedro: Calvary
Jenn Bamberger: Beacon House
Sara Moore: Heads Up
Kelli Meehan: La Salle Elementary
Shannon Schmidt: St. Anthony’s
Mike Blackford: Higher Achievement

Thank you to all the team leaders... you are doing an awesome job!

Congratulations:

Do you remember when you learned the ABC’s? How did you learn them? Did you start with A? then with B? and so on? Did you learn the song?

Well, the traditional way of learning the ABC’s may not be the way for students who have a difficult time learning. Here are some tips on teaching the ABC’s:

1. Teach the sounds of letters first vs. the names of the letters. In phonics it is more important to learn the sounds of the letters than the name of the letter, especially since the name of the letter does not always make the same sound of the letter.

2. Teach the most commonly used letters first (m, t, s, a, l, r). You cannot make many words with the first letters of the alphabet, ie a, b, c, d. However, you can make many words with m, t, s, a, l, r, (ie. sat, rat, sam, mat)

3. Do not teach b/d or p/q or m/n in the same lesson. These letters are easily confused. Wait a couple lessons before teaching the other letter.

4. Teach lower case letters first. We use lower case letter more than upper case letter.

“Educational Corner:”

These tutors were chosen by their site as Tutors of the Month! They are being acknowledged based on their outstanding work at their site and with the children. Thank you for all of your work and for being SPECTACULAR!

Sara Delmonico
Calvary
Talia Whitney
Beacon House
Matthew McCafferty
Higher Achievement
Kaitlin Racine
La Salle
Jamie Hernandez
Heads Up
Elizabeth Catan
St. Anthony’s

These tutors were chosen by their site as Tutors of the Month! They are being acknowledged based on their outstanding work at their site and with the children. Thank you for all of your work and for being SPECTACULAR!

Teach the most commonly used letters first... stay away from q, u, y until later!