

Virginia

Encouraging Literacy in English Language Learners

Arlington Mill Continuation High School

4975 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204; 703-228-5350; FAX 703-575-8666

Submitted By: Louise A. Vogel, Lisa Pellegrino, Jack Lane and Sarah Geisler

This program is designed to encourage students in the evening program at Arlington Mill Continuation High school, who are 18 to 22 years in age, to read more throughout the academic year by providing high interest reading materials about people their own age. The school population mainly consists of recently arrived immigrant students who are learning to communicate in English while working to meet the standards in all content areas to receive their high school diplomas. Students will participate in class activities including guided readings with the teacher, literature circles with small groups, independent reading, presentations and book club participation. The goal is that students will improve their English vocabulary while reading and discussing current topics.

Reading to Go

Bren Mar Park Elementary School

6344 Beryl Road, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-914-7200; FAX 703-914-7297

Submitted By: Joy Watkins and Betty Miller

Reading to Go is a program to promote and encourage an interest in reading among the fifth grade students at Bren Mar Park Elementary School. Students will be assigned kits, each one containing a zippered bag and a Walkman. They will then choose an audiotape and corresponding print book, using them to listen and read along during the independent reading time at school. There will be a variety to choose from so that students can find exciting and entertaining materials, while the audiotapes will provide a model of fluent reading and support. The program reaches beyond the classroom by allowing students to take their reading kits home to extend their reading time. The audiotapes and books will be available the whole school year, including weekends and holidays. The program intends to foster an appreciation and interest in reading as a fun activity of choice.

Nonfiction Matters!

Camelot Elementary School

8100 Guinevere Drive, Annandale, VA 22003; 703-645-7000; FAX 703-645-7097

Submitted By: Rebecca Costello

Nonfiction Matters! is an instructional program, providing nonfiction material to supplement the reading and writing workshops in the classroom for all students at Camelot Elementary School. Nonfiction guided reading sets of different degrees of difficulty in reading level and comprehension will be purchased and will be available to all classrooms. Students will also gain knowledge in different subject areas through the non-fiction books. Teachers will guide students and support their reading according to each individual student's need while working with them in small groups. Students will

learn to preview and select text for a purpose, compare fiction and nonfiction, determine importance in the text, summarize and write nonfiction pieces.

A Community of Butterflies

4700 South Chesterfield Road, Arlington, VA 22206; 703-228-2500; FAX 703-228-2523
Submitted By: Elizabeth Mansilla and Faylinda Kodis

A Community of Butterflies is a school-wide curriculum integrated study of life processes through the planting of butterfly gardens to promote the survival of the Monarch butterfly. Each classroom will establish a natural butterfly preserve by planting milkweed seedlings and establishing caterpillars in the preserve. Using grade level appropriate scientific investigation techniques, students will observe, evaluate, measure and predict the development and occurrence of Monarch sightings within these habitats. Each grade will participate in a variety of supplementary activities. In addition, the Physical Education teacher and the art teacher will engage the students in activities relating to the respective subjects. Each student will also make ceramic butterflies as part of a butterfly installation that will show the impact of the project. There will be several culminating events including the display of the ceramic butterflies, and tours of the butterfly habitats with texts and photo documentation explaining the project development and the threat to the Monarch.

Putting Books in the Hands and Hearts of Children

Crestwood Elementary School
6010 Hanover Avenue, Springfield, VA 22150; 703-923-5400; FAX 703-923-5497
Submitted By: Kristi Coudron

Fourth grade students at Crestwood Elementary School will participate in an interactive reading program that will emphasize students reading books at their particular level and sharing their enthusiasm and highlights of the books with others. The program includes a reading workshop in which students will choose and check out three books from the classroom library, which will be expanded to include material that supports the science and social studies curriculums. Students will be given three different times during the school day to browse the library and trade books that they will keep to read during the twenty minutes dedicated to Independent Reading time. Books will also be used by teachers to hold individual conferences with students to teach and to assist students in choosing the appropriate books and addressing any problems or concerns. At the conclusion of each reading workshop, students will use a microphone to share highlights and make recommendations of the books they read. This program will teach students to use effective oral communication skills and draw conclusions and opinions from reading.

A Taste of Science-Revisited

Francis C. Hammond Middle School
4646 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304; 703-461-4100; FAX 703-461-4111
Submitted By: Nancy Bort

A Taste of Science-Revisited is a creative and innovative project in which students in life science classes will conduct laboratory investigations, working with edible materials that can be consumed at the end of each activity. By preparing food, students will learn and retain information in a fun and engaging way through activities that make the learning relevant to their lives. Students will learn to identify living organisms using food such as bacteria in active yogurt cultures, yeast cells in making bread, algae, and bone structures with chicken wings. Parents will be welcome to join the students in class for any activity. The project enhances the science curricula while also positively impacting the students' eating habits and diet.

Books for Breakfast

George C. Round Elementary

10100 Hastings Drive, Manassas, VA 20110; 703-257-8750; FAX 703-257-8759

Submitted By: AnnMarie Stephens

Books for Breakfast is a program designed to promote and encourage the reading of books outside the classroom by setting up a weekly meeting, taking place before the start of the school day, during which time students will listen to literature without the expectation of work to follow. Twenty-five students from the entire school will be selected to be participants by teachers or other staff members each week. The program founder, and guest readers such as the principal, will read to the students as a group. The books shared during that time will be donated to two to three students participating in the program each week through a random name drawing process. This exposure to books aims to help students develop a habit of and love for reading, while also bringing students together to interact.

Upgrade the Download

H.H. Poole Middle School

800 Eustace Road, Stafford, VA 22554; 540-658-6190; FAX 540-658-6176

Submitted By: Nancy Vitale

This program is designed to increase and encourage student interest in engineering and the math/science courses that support engineering careers. Students and teachers at H.H. Poole Middle School will partner with scientists and engineers at the Naval Research Facility in Dahlgren. One hundred and three seventh grade students will be presented the problem of an oil tanker stranded on a coral reef, which will be modeled by Dahlgren engineers. The interdisciplinary project will involve research in various subject areas and integrates technology through robotics, computer programming and movie production. Research will be conducted in the language arts classes, while the biosystem of the coral reef and the effect of oil on the reef will be studied in science; public policy and legislation will be discussed and proposed in civics; and many math concepts will be introduced in the instruction. Students will then produce research reports, power point presentations and public policy arguments in addition to movies that document the findings. They will also perform at least one programming task that involves using robotics to remove a model ship from a "coral reef". Parents will be invited to an exposition to see the results of the project.

City of Lights

Haycock Elementary School

6616 Haycock Road, Falls Church, VA 22043; 703-531-4000; FAX 703-531-4097

Submitted By: Sue Sugarbaker, Brandy Fetters, Denise Tang and Linda White

City of Lights is a multidimensional project involving music, drama, technology, language arts, social studies, math, architecture, science and art. First, students in the sixth grade at Haycock Elementary School will participate in a field trip into Washington, D.C. to visit, study and photograph monuments and buildings. Each student will pick a particular building or monument to study and, using the school library and resources from the Library of Congress, will collect information and document facts in photo essays. Students will research, construct and light scale monuments and buildings as part of the science and social studies curriculums. Students will then perform City of Lights as the culminating event, an original musical based on the history and events that led to the creation of major monuments and buildings in Washington, D.C. Videos will be made of the performance and will be available for other schools to view on the county television site.

Produce Power! Growing A Garden of Healthy Habits

John Adams Elementary School

5651 Rayburn Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311; 703-824-6970; FAX 703-379-0645

Submitted By: Hilari Hinnant

First grade students at John Adams Elementary School will participate in this program designed to promote healthy eating and exercise habits. Fruits and vegetables will be encouraged for snack and at lunch, exercise will be implemented into the daily routine, pedometers will be worn and a “daily healthy habits” writing journal will be kept. Students will plant a vegetable garden in the spring and the produce will be shared among all first grade classes. Various activities and events will occur throughout the year such as a Healthy Habits Puppet Show, culminating with a display of photos and the journals. This program will enhance writing skills and math skills through the journal keeping, pedometers and measurement activities in the garden.

Adapted Classics

Kilmer Center

8102 Wolftrap Road, Vienna, VA 22182; 571-226-8440; FAX 571-226-8497

Submitted By: Shelley Lyon and Natalie Martineau

Adapted Classics is a program that provides students with severe disabilities, autism and mental retardation the opportunity to read classic novels that have been adapted and illustrated to make them accessible. The books will be tailored to the students’ instructional reading levels and interactive animated E-Books will be available to strengthen comprehension while engaging the students in visual learning. The program is aimed at promoting creative expression and social interaction in addition to integrating

technology into the classroom. It encourages reading, enhances literacy, strengthens comprehension and develops language arts, speech and communication skills.

Coming Soon to a Storm Drain Near You

Loudoun County Day School

237 Fairview Street, N.W., Leesburg, VA 20176; 703-777-3841; FAX 703-771-1346

Submitted By: Cindy Venne and Renee Kelahan

Fourth grade students at Loudoun County Day School will participate in this program that is designed to educate and nurture stewards for the future of Loudoun County's environment and to introduce and teach the scientific method. Students will learn proper water-testing procedures using water kits, as well as the purpose and importance of stream monitoring. A field trip to different creeks will provide a test location where water quality data will be collected. They will analyze and discuss data, generating a report to present to the Public Information/Education Specialist at the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District.

Reaching Out to the World

Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy

530 South St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-706-4430; FAX 703-684-0252

Submitted By: Wanda Allen

Reaching Out to the World is an enriching geography program that teaches students about the world, the continents, oceans, rivers and different countries. The kindergarten classes at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy will send out postcards to the friends and families of the kindergarten students living overseas, asking for response postcards from the places where cards are sent. A large laminated world map will be mounted on the wall and dots will be placed on the countries from where response postcards are received. Students will learn to recognize the flags of the countries and will learn about the geography of the various countries. Lastly, parents will make or provide some of the foods from the countries for the students to sample.

Chemistry Solutions

McLean High School

1633 Davidson Road, McLean, VA 22101; 703-714-5700; FAX 703-714-5797

Submitted By: Karen Molloy

Chemistry Solutions is a reading in science program that develops reading and writing skills that culminates in the publishing of a magazine. Chemistry 1 students at McLean High School will read scientific articles, summarize the ideas, using them to build a thematic portfolio. Each student will select and research an area of interest that presents a scientific chemistry problem, developing scientific and conversational literacy. They will research possible solutions or alternatives for addressing the problem. Students will be put into groups of four at the end of the year and will work together to create and "publish" a chemistry magazine for their peers. This project will help increase scientific knowledge, practice critical thinking skills and improve writing skills.

Sounds of History

Newington Forest Elementary School

8001 Newington Forest Avenue, Springfield, VA 22153; 703-923-2600; FAX 703-923-2697

Submitted By: Carol K. Padgett, Judy Avalos and Ann Voss

Sounds of History is a program that provides students at Newington Forest Elementary School with audiotapes to be used in conjunction with the Social Studies trade books. Audiotapes of five trade books will be made or purchased for each grade level in order to provide demonstration of fluent reading, create opportunities for students to discuss Social Studies concepts and expose readers to new vocabulary. The tapes will be placed in listening centers, used for remediation, sent home, or used to introduce new vocabulary.

Photography/Literacy Collaboration Project

Parklawn Elementary School

4116 Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-814-6900; FAX 703-914-6997

Submitted By: Eleanor Diaz

Twenty students from the fifth grade, thirteen of whom are ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) students, will participate in this collaborative project that is designed to help students of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds express themselves in images and words while bringing them together. Each fifth grade student will be paired up with a high school student from Langley High School as pen pals. They will write letters to get to know each other before meeting for a joint field trip to the Corcoran Gallery of Art to view an exhibit of photographs by Andy Warhol. Students will study the photographs to learn how the images reflect popular culture. Following the visit, the high school mentors will teach the fifth graders how to operate a disposable black and white camera that will be taken home, and how to compose a photograph. Students will learn to use photography to explore the meaning of popular culture in their own lives by taking pictures. The films will be made into negatives, which will be sent to the high school mentors, who will help the fifth graders choose the most meaningful image to enlarge and transform into a written story. The fifth graders will take a field trip to the Langley High School darkroom where the high school mentors will help each of the students make an enlargement of the chosen photograph. The students will each write a personal narrative based on the photograph and will combine them to present in a gallery setting, bind as a book and display on the school website. The project will culminate with a reception for the students, parents and staff where the students will share their photographs and stories.

Battle of the Books

St. Ambrose School

3827 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003; 703-698-7171; FAX 703-698-7170

Submitted By: Marcia Healy

Battle of the Books is an innovative, interclassroom reading enrichment program for fifth and sixth grade students in the Diocese of Arlington. During the course of the year

students participating in the program will read from a pre-selected list of sixteen books and engage in a variety of creative activities that will enhance their comprehension and appreciation of the literature. At the end of the year, teams of students representing each participating school will meet for the annual “Battle of the Books” competition, where teams earn points for correctly answered questions. The winning team will be awarded a trophy to be kept and displayed in the school. This program is aimed at motivating students to read and providing a unique opportunity for academic thought and discussion.

Caring Pens of St. Bernadette

St. Bernadette School

7602 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152; 703-451-8696; FAX 703-451-8221

Submitted By: L’Tonya Tobin

Caring Pens is a joint-teacher, interdisciplinary pen pal project between two third grade classes at St. Bernadette School and community senior citizens. Designed to develop enthusiasm for learning in children through intergenerational mentoring friendships, this program provides encouragement and positive reinforcement by creating role models. Students will each be paired with a senior adult participant and the pair will exchange short letters for a month. Students will be encouraged to ask their pen pals about their lives as young children in order to discover common areas. Each pen pal will keep a journal as a personal record of the participants’ thoughts, feelings and observations about the correspondence. They will also create a scrapbook that will contain drawings, pictures and letters. Parents will hold onto the senior pen pals’ journals to present to their child when he or she is older.

Metal Casting

South Lakes High School

11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA 20141; 703-715-4500; FAX

Submitted By: Matthew Ravenstahl

This multidisciplinary project involving art, history and science, will give 12-15 advanced art class students the opportunity to participate in the involved process of metal casting. Each student will prepare a mold and create a cast metal sculpture at the foundry of the University of Maryland at College Park, who will also provide assistance to run the foundry and pour the metal safely. Students will learn the history behind this method of art making and will use the “loose sand” process, which uses Styrofoam as the mold. It also involves certain scientific processes, allowing students to learn about gas and pressure. Students will also engage in discussions about the relationship between art, science and history.

The Student Letter Writing Campaign

Springfield Estates Elementary School

6200 Charles C. Goff Drive, Springfield, VA 22150; 703-921-2300; FAX 703-921-2397

Submitted By: Marguerite Metzler, Margaret Robertson and Tara Loehr

Sixth grade students at Springfield Estates Elementary School will engage in this creative research and writing activity about Thomas Jefferson. Students will extend their knowledge beyond textbooks and traditional biographies of Jefferson and will be introduced to Jefferson's vision of strong public schools, his expertise as an agricultural scientist, and his contribution to American cuisine. This project will honor Thomas Jefferson on his birthday by holding a special gourmet lunch served in the school cafeterias with the help from a professional chef with an expertise in American cuisine. All students will then research and compose letters to the school superintendent, 20 of which will be chosen to be sent, proposing the recognition of Thomas Jefferson on his birthday with a special county wide school lunch. This project aims towards developing written communication skills while supporting the social studies curriculum.

The Wildcat Newsbunch: Science Newspaper Writing

Sugarland Elementary School

65 Sugarland Run Drive, Sterling, VA 20164; 703-444-7460; FAX 703-444-7463

Submitted By: Alexandra Wong, Jennifer Erne, Jennifer Amores-Kalich, Vanessa Jones and Laurie Reed

The Wildcat Newsbunch is a writing project that will use a student news club as a vehicle for students to write and publish their own science newspaper. It is designed to accelerate and improve the writing skills of ESL (English as a Second Language) students by organizing an activity that requires working in collaborative groups with their English-speaking classmates. There will be a minimum of six general education students and eight ESL students selected through an application process. The project will also extend students' knowledge of science lessons, preparing them for the Virginia Standards of Learning test and fostering an interest in the subject. The finished newspapers will be copied and distributed and shared with the fifth grade student body and parents. It will also be shared with the community through the school website.

Here Comes the Sun

W.C. Taylor Middle School

350 East Shirley Avenue, Warrenton, VA 20186; 540-347-6140; FAX 540-347-6145

Submitted By: Palma Smoot and Anne Rogers

Eighth grade students in the physical science class at W.C. Taylor Middle School will learn problem-solving techniques and develop creative solutions through experimenting and investigating the alternative power source of solar energy. Students will construct a car that is powered only by energy from the sun using a photovoltaic cell. Students will use trial and error, experimenting with the individual components of the car, to find the most efficient design. Several different questions and ideas will be explored, including how engineering affects the ability of the car to use power efficiently, how gear ratios affect speed and how mass and friction can reduce power. By investigating unfamiliar technology, students will be encouraged to test ideas and develop productive, complex, abstract and higher level thinking skills. This project will take place over the course of five weeks and will culminate in the completion of a final design and a competition.

Leaping into English

William Ramsey Elementary School

5700 Sanger Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-824-6950; FAX 703-379-7824

Submitted By: Robbin Boyajy, Carol Knipscheer, Marisa Meijome, Kamae Sandgren,
Karen Schilling and Leona White

Kindergarten, first, and second grade students in the ESL (English as a Second Language Program) at William Ramsey Elementary School will use the LeapPad Programs that consist of 12 LeapPad Personal Learning Tools (laptop-like devices that provide interactive, engaging audio support) and 39 interactive books. The program supports reading and language development in addition to covering math, social studies and science subjects. After students are trained to use the LeapPads, they will take them home each week to incorporate family participation in the process of learning to read and understand the English language. Students will increase their ability in several areas, including reading comprehension, fluency, letter and sound recognition, vocabulary and knowledge of sentence structure. The program will culminate with an ice cream social to celebrate the successful completion of the project.