

The Baltimore Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

3rd GRADE READING SUCCESS MATTERS

“Today
a reader.
Tomorrow
a leader.”

- Margaret Fuller



What's Happening

All,

It's Back to School Time and the Baltimore Campaign for Grade Level Reading is partnering with City Schools, the Mayor's Office and the Baltimore Attendance Collaborative to celebrate attendance awareness month, a new nationwide initiative designed to make more students, families and communities aware of the importance of daily school attendance. Help us spread the word and encourage as many parents and students as possible to sign up for the "Every Day Counts" attendance pledge at www.baltimorecityschools.org/pledge.

Below are key updates from the Campaign. As always, your feedback and input is appreciated.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Manns". The signature is written in a cursive style.

*Kimberly Manns
Program Director*

Communication and Engagement

Now that the Campaign has identified a working draft of the Framework for grade level reading and strategic focus areas of school readiness, school, and extended learning opportunities, we are working to develop a communication and engagement strategy. Our first step is to ensure our website is up to date with the details of the Campaign so you can stay informed. To assess our website click [here](#). Please note that any pertinent information not featured in our monthly newsletter will be added to our website. Also note that all coalition members have been listed. If your organization is not listed and you would like to be added, please email Kimberlym@ffee.org.

Our Story

As the national Campaign celebrates its one year anniversary of the establishment of the GLR community networks in over 134 communities, Baltimore has joined communities across the nation by sharing our success. We have had some major accomplishments in the past year including:

- The Hiring of a Program Director in January 2013*
- Establishing GLR Steering Committee*
- Hosting two coalition meetings*
- Creating the Baltimore Framework*
- Establishing workgroups within each of our key strategic focus areas-school, school readiness, and extended learning opportunities*

Click [here](#) for a quick presentation of our accomplishments, shared with the national GLR network.

School Readiness

SAVE THE DATE... AND BE SURE TO FORWARD TO YOUR COALITIONS, PARTNERS, CLIENTS AND COLLEAGUES

Please save this date for the 4th Annual B'more for Healthy Babies Infant Mortality Awareness Event on Tuesday, October 15th from 5:30 – 8:00PM at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Agenda and publicity materials to come in the next few weeks. Hope to see you there!!

Extended Learning Opportunities

Mayor Rawlings-Blake Thanks the AmeriCorps Vista Summer Associates

It's back-to-school time. In the upcoming weeks, children across the country will be asked this quintessential question: What did you do this summer? The answer for nearly 3,000 Baltimore elementary students may surprise you.

With the help of 93 [AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates](#), they practiced reading and writing. More importantly, they had lots of fun in the process! Summer Associates spent their volunteer service working for the "Read to Succeed" program-a partnership with City Schools, the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Parks and People, Family League of Baltimore, AmeriCorps Vista, Department of Social Services and other non-profits- for kindergarten to third-grade students most in need of reading support. The students explored the magical world of undersea animals, ventured on weekly cultural field trips, and participated in daily outdoor activities. And all of this was done with a theme of reading. More than 100,000 nutritious meals, including 60,000 suppers through the [USDA Summer Food Service Program](#), were also distributed as part of the program.

On August 12, during an event to recognize their dedication to service, Mayor Rawlings-Blake had this to say, "VISTA Summer Associates are playing an important role in helping close the achievement gap in our city. Without the VISTAs, we wouldn't have been able to reach so many kids with the help they need to do well in school and life."

Next Coalition Meeting

Our next meeting will be October 24th, 9 am - 11 am at the Family League of Baltimore. The purpose of these meetings will be to inform each of you of the progress of the Baltimore GLR Campaign, ensure all stakeholders are connected, and receive input. Please hold the date! We very much look forward to seeing you then.

To learn more, email: kimberlym@fee.org or call: 410-864-1409

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