

# The Baltimore Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE READING SUCCESS MATTERS

“Today  
a reader.  
Tomorrow  
a leader.”

- Margaret Fuller



## *What's Happening*

*Dear Grade Level Reading Coalition:*

*Summer is right around the corner and we've been working hard to get our Summer Reading and Pre-K Enrollment Initiatives off the ground. I'm excited to share updates on these projects below and to be working with you all to promote these initiatives over the summer. We'll discuss this work in more depth at our next Coalition Meeting on **Wednesday, June 3rd from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the Family League of Baltimore.***

*As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or feedback you may have.*

*In Partnership,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Manns".

*Kimberly Manns  
Program Director*

## ***Coalition Spotlight: Conversations About Reading Blog***

*Over the next few months, the Campaign is on a mission to highlight what Baltimore citizens are doing to help kids read. Earlier this month, we spoke with Malika Jones, Family Engagement Specialist at the Cherry Hill Early Learning Action Coalition. If you missed the video, you can watch it [here](#).*

*This week, we spoke with Ms. Maxwell, an Experience Corps Volunteer, about how she helps kids read. Watch the video [here](#).*

*Please help us spark discussion by commenting on the [post](#) and by [sharing](#) and [re-tweeting](#).*



## ***Coming Soon-- Survey on Coalition Engagement***

*We want to hear from you about your experience working with the Grade Level Reading Campaign. In preparation for our next Coalition Meeting, on Wednesday, June 3rd from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the Family League, we'd like to explore how we can better engage and serve members of our Coalition and fulfill our goals to: connect coalition members to each other, to the strategies of the Campaign and to the families we aim to impact. We'll be sending out a brief survey to help improve our partnership in the next couple of weeks and look forward to your feedback.*

## ***Pre-K Enrollment Initiative***



*The Family Literacy Coalition (the school readiness arm of the GLR Campaign) is working closely with Baltimore City Public Schools to increase the number of priority one children who are enrolled in Pre-K. In order to accomplish this:*

- City Schools will work with The Family Literacy Coalition to increase distribution of Pre-K Enrollment guides. FLC members including WIC, DSS, Head Start Collaborative, Housing Authority, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Health Leads and Managed Care Organizations will distribute guides. An electronic version of the guide will be distributed to providers through the American Academy Of Pediatrics and B'more For Healthy Babies. Guides will be printed thanks to funding from the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds.*
- The Family Literacy Coalition will utilize door hangers to raise awareness of Pre-K enrollment in neighborhoods with historically low enrollment.*

- *The Cherry Hill Early Learning Action Coalition will host a Pre-K and K enrollment fair at St. Veronica's Catholic Church on Thursday, April 16th from 1 PM – 4 PM.*
- *Grade Level Reading and The Family Literacy Coalition are working with the Mayor's Office to promote Pre-K at the Mayor's Block Parties this summer.*

## ***Summer Reading Initiative***



*This summer, GLR is once again working with partners to encourage families to read daily in an effort to fight summer learning loss and create daily reading routines. In the last month, we've made some exciting progress and are happy to share the following updates:*

- Literacy Rich Environments: Grade Level Reading is working to connect summer programs to the Maryland Book Bank to increase access to books.
- Summer Programming: The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Family League of Baltimore received 117 applications for summer funding through the recent RFP. Of these 117 applications, 110 selected literacy as a focus area. In addition, the GLR Extended Learning Opportunities work group will create and facilitate a training on literacy for summer providers.

## ***Save the Date-- Community Forum on Reducing Tobacco Use Among Baltimore's Youth***

# **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **Reducing Tobacco Use among Baltimore's Youth: What's Menthol Got to Do with It? Community Forum**

Hosted by Councilwoman Helen Holton and Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen  
In collaboration with Dr. Gregory Thornton, Baltimore City Public Schools &  
the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council

**Thursday, April 30, 2015**

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Poly/Western High School Auditorium**

Free parking is available.

Please RSVP to Councilwoman Holton's office at 410-396-4818 or [Helen.Holton@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Helen.Holton@baltimorecity.gov).



#savingblacklives

## Attendance Awareness Month



*Did you know that Attendance Awareness Month this Fall offers a wonderful opportunity to engage key stakeholders, especially schools? Find out more by participating in the Ready, Set Go! webinar on April 15 that launches planning for Attendance Awareness Month ([register here](#)). Two GLR communities— Pittsburgh and Council Bluffs, Iowa— will share their efforts to improve attendance in the early grades. Attendance Works will also be releasing its revised Count Us In! Toolkit, an essential guide to prepare for September's activities.*

*Be sure to sign up [here](#) to receive regular updates and resources from Attendance Works.*

To learn more, email: [kimberlym@fee.org](mailto:kimberlym@fee.org) or call: 410-685-8300

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