

The TRF Newsletter

School's Out!

Summer vacation is almost here, but we at The Riordan Foundation and Rx for Reading are not joining Los Angeles students on break. In fact, we have a number of exciting projects coming up this season. Take a look!

TRF Celebrates 30 years of service!

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of The Riordan Foundation, which was founded back in 1981 to help students acquire the skills necessary to compete successfully in society. Today, after three decades of serving the students of Los Angeles, we have proudly distributed more than 27,000 computers to over 2,190 schools, provided funds for over 187,000 books in elementary classrooms, and have graduated over 3,000 young professionals through our leadership programs.

However, none of this work would have been possible without generous assistance of our friends, partners, funders and hard-working grantee schools. Thank you all for your support over these past thirty years and we are excited to see where the future takes us!

A celebration of this milestone is in the works, and we hope that you will be able to join us later this summer for this event. More details to come. Here's to the next thirty years being as successful as the last!



Summer 2011 Calendar

August: TRF 30th Anniversary Celebration (details TBA)

August: SMART, CIC and PD applications available by invitation only

September: RRMG application available online

October: SMART, CIC and PD applications due.

November 5th: Annual Technology Conference



Looking forward: fall grants and the return of Computers in the Classroom.

The Riordan Foundation will once again offer a number of grant programs for Los Angeles schools this fall. Along with the SMART Classroom Technology Grant and the Recreation Reading Mini-Grant, we will offer a new program that focuses on professional development for our past grantees.

The new school year will also see the return of the Computers in the Classroom grant, which allows schools to apply for laptops and desktops for classrooms or computer labs. Though this program has not been offered since 2008, a number of schools have expressed a continuing need for the valuable initiative.

This year we will focus on working with schools that have the proper infrastructure to implement technology to its greatest effect. Therefore, many of our programs will be by invitation only. Should a school feel that they are a good fit, they may contact the office directly at (310) 472 -2020 for details on how to submit a letter of inquiry. This document is due on or before Sept. 16th.



Men unloading boxes of donated books at one of the eight California Correctional Facilities participating in the second cycle of the Turn the Page Project.

Helping to “Turn the Page” for inmates in California’s prisons.

The Riordan Foundation, in partnership with Goodwill of Southern California, has piloted a new initiative aimed at increasing literacy and decreasing recidivism among the inmate populations of California prisons. Born out of Mayor Riordan’s personal relationship with Hamid Bashir, an inmate at Ironwood prison, the Turn the Page Project provides books for meager prison libraries. Directed by Riordan Foundation consultant Ama Namayeke, the first cycle provided 4,500 books to eight prisons throughout the state.

In honor of the foundation’s 30th anniversary, the Turn the Page Project will continue to deliver reading materials to cash-strapped penitentiaries. Already this month, we have delivered an additional 5,000 books to eight more prisons and have started preparing to purchase materials for a number of juvenile detention education centers. These efforts will continue to grow as we attempt to reach the most underserved youth in California.



Riordanfoundation.org gets a makeover!

With the help and web expertise of Firespring, a design firm that specializes in the online presence of nonprofits, and a grant from the Digital Community Foundation, The Riordan Foundation will be launching a new website in late July. This much-needed update will streamline both the look and navigation of the site as well as display an interactive event calendar and news updates. We hope to use these improvements to maintain better contact with our friends, partners and grantee schools.

Along with the new site, The Riordan Foundation will continue to communicate through our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/riordanfoundation. Please like us and join the conversation; we would love to hear what you think!

