

The TRF Newsletter

School is Back in Session!

With the beginning of a new year comes exciting possibilities for the future, but as we embark on this journey forward, we invite you to take a look back at some of our undertakings in 2010.

Rx for Reading a runner-up in Verizon CA Literacy Campaign!

More than 7,000 votes were cast in Verizon's *Check into Literacy* text-to-vote campaign, and with the help of our friends and supporters, Rx for Reading won \$9,700 to be used in support of the 2011 Recreational Reading Mini-Grant! After an open call for applications, Verizon CA chose nine finalist organizations that offered literacy programs to constituents in Southern California. The public then voted on which programs should receive the grant, which was funded by Verizon customers who chose to donate \$1 on each monthly phone bill.

Verizon's local Director of External Affairs, Julia Cooksey was on site at Charnock Road Elementary school to deliver the check in front of a second grade class of past RRMG beneficiary students. With the help of this grant, Rx for Reading will be able to fund classroom libraries for ten additional teachers and attempt to instill a love of reading in more than 200 additional students.

We are touched by the outpouring of support and are extremely grateful to those that voted. Thank you for your help!



Spring 2010 Calendar

January 7th: Recreational Reading Mini-Grant winners to be announced

January 24th-28th: SMART Classroom Technology Grant winners to be announced (tentative)

February: Recreational Reading Mini-Grant books delivered to winning classroom libraries

March: TRF 2010 Annual Report pdf published electronically

TBA: TRF annual board meeting


The Riordan Foundation

**Meet our Friend and Consultant:
Dr. Linda Santana**



Having worked with the foundation since 1999, Linda's most recent contribution has been to assist with the coordination of Rx for Reading's 2010 Technology Conference. This year, using her expertise as a former ELD trainer, Linda will help evaluate the effectiveness of TRF's Imagine Learning English and Istation pilot programs.

As a former teacher and principal with 37 years experience in LAUSD, Linda brings with her a wealth of knowledge and has been instrumental in advising the foundation on how best to serve our grantees. Linda received her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction at USC where, from 1977-1984, she also served as a Teacher Trainer and Instructor. Linda's many extra curricular activities include golf, walking, Mexican Folkloric dancing and enjoying movies.

Recreational Reading...with Therapy Animals!

Students in Ms. Slotnick's second grade class, the beneficiaries of a 2010 Recreational Reading Mini-Grant, were surprised in November by a visit from 13 members of the Delta Chapter of Paws for Healing, a therapy animal group based in Los Angeles. Students were encouraged to pick a book off the shelf and sit down to read aloud to a canine (or rabbit) companion.

The animal/handler teams were joined by Mayor Riordan in what was an exciting hour filled with learning and literacy. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the volunteers, both human and animal, for making reading such a special activity for these students.



Rx Technology Conference exposes teachers to "SMART Teaching."

On November 6th at New Millennium Secondary School in Carson, Rx for Reading held its annual Technology Conference for past grantees. Over forty-five teachers joined us for a choice of five different hour-long workshops, including three SMART-specific classes. In addition to attending two presentations, all participants were included in a round-robin of short introductory programs featuring, among others, the Barnes & Noble Nook eReader, and a guide to Instructional Technology Funds and Grants. All teachers received a \$100 stipend for their time and were treated to a networking lunch with colleagues.

Research suggests that ongoing professional development is one of the most important factors in the successful implementation of education technology; it is for this reason that Rx for Reading continues to support its grantees with opportunities to learn about current trends and techniques. Surveys administered throughout the day also help us to gauge the needs of our constituents, so as to better structure our grants and programs.

We would like to once again thank all the teachers that participated, our generous presenters and the staff of New Millennium for sharing their school site with us. The conference was a wild success!

