

The TRF Newsletter

It's A New School Year!

Students and teachers are heading back to school this September and The Riordan Foundation and Rx for Reading are gearing up for the new year with a number of exciting development opportunities!

Teach Smarter with SMART

Rx for Reading will once again partner with SMART Technologies, Oliver Worldclass Labs and Arey Jones this September to provide the SMART Classroom Technology Grant to deserving public and parochial schools. Applications will be available starting September 1st on The Riordan Foundation website: www.riordanfoundation.org.

The SMART Classroom Technology Grant is a challenge grant, meaning grantee schools must cover 50% of the cost of their chosen equipment configurations. In addition to receiving SMART interactive whiteboards, winning schools may opt to include Senteo Student Response Devices, wireless slates and laptops to use in conjunction with the new equipment.

While the SMART Classroom Technology Grant will be administered as it has in the past, Rx for Reading hopes to leverage our partnership with SMART Technologies to reach even more LA schools this grant cycle. It has recently come to our attention that a number of LAUSD schools received SMART technology through a district settlement with Microsoft. Unfortunately, this equipment was provided without professional development or training opportunities in place. While SMART Boards have the potential to be an invaluable tool in the effort to increase student engagement and understanding, we have found that without proper training, support and continued professional development the results of their use can be underwhelming. It is because of this belief in the need for proper training that Rx for Reading plans to extend and adapt our program to support these voucher schools.



Fall 2010 Calendar

September 1st: SMART Classroom Technology application available

September 27th: Recreational Reading Mini-Grant application available

October 29th: SMART application deadline

November 6th: The 2nd Annual Rx for Reading Technology Conference at New Millennium Secondary School in Carson

November 30th: RRMG application deadline

The Riordan Foundation





New Books for Classrooms with The Riordan Foundation's RRMG

The Riordan Foundation's most popular grant is back for its seventeenth year! The Recreational Reading Mini-Grant (RRMG) provides \$1,000 for teachers to enhance their classroom lending libraries. Partnerships with booksellers Barnes & Noble, Perma-Bound and Children's Book World ensure that educators' grant money goes as far as possible in this harsh economic climate.

RRMG applications will be available September 27th on The Riordan Foundation website. Applicants must include a booklist detailing the price and titles of those books they wish to purchase. Applications will be due on November 30th and winners will be announced in early January.

Announcing the Second Annual Technology Conference

Rx for Reading will host the second annual Technology Conference "SMART Teaching: Infusing Technology into Instruction" on Saturday November 6th at New Millennium Secondary School in Carson. This conference is open to all past grant recipients and workshop topics include SMART Board Implementation for all user levels, Video in the Classroom: Uses and Programming, Computers in the Classroom and many more. In addition to attending presentations, participating teachers will learn about other organizations' grant opportunities and receive a \$100 stipend for the day. Rx for Reading views this event as part of an ongoing responsibility to our grantees to help them use their technology resources to the fullest potential.

The Riordan Foundation is now on Facebook!



Social Media sites are a valuable new tool that nonprofit organizations and charitable foundations are using to successfully interact with their clients and donors. Rather than simply directing inquiries to an impersonal website, Facebook allows members to comment on posts, ask questions publicly for the benefit of all and receive notifications when pages are updated.

The Riordan Foundation is using its new Facebook account to keep teachers informed of upcoming grant opportunities, relevant news articles and professional development opportunities. To follow us on Facebook, login to your account, type 'The Riordan Foundation' into the search bar and click on the 'Like' button at the top of the page. Alternatively, follow the link on our homepage at www.riordanfoundation.org.

Meet the New Assistant to the President: Jaime Kalenik



Having interned with The Riordan Foundation since September of 2009, Jaime Kalenik was hired as the new Assistant to the President on July 26th. As an intern, Jaime conducted site visits with past SMART grantees, wrote reports assessing the Foundation's impact at these institutions and contributed to the content of the annual report. She is very excited to serve the constituents of The Riordan Foundation and Rx for Reading in this new capacity.

Jaime graduated from Tufts University in 2009 with a BA in Classical Studies. She volunteers at two organizations that serve the developmentally disabled: KEEN Los Angeles and Arts & Services for the Disabled. When not at the office, you can find Jaime on the soccer field, drumming or playing ultimate frisbee.

