

WORDS UNITE

2008
NATIONAL Year
OF Reading

The latest news on the community campaign to Get Hackney Reading

February 2008

National Year of Reading

2008 is a huge year for reading in Hackney. Not only is it the UK's National Year of Reading (NYR) but a wide range of activities from school-based programmes to community events are also underway in Hackney.

The National Year of Reading was launched at 10 Downing Street last month with Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families Ed Balls. They were joined by authors and education representatives including Hackney Libraries' Children's and Young People's Manager for Library Services Dawn Hendrickson.

'It's was a great event, they spoke about the importance of reading from an early age and their own experiences with reading. There was also an interesting question and answer session,' she says.

Hackney's coordinator for NYR is Colleen Amos, who is also leading on the communications and marketing for Words Unite. Her role is to champion the National Year of Reading and maintain a link between the campaign and the Hackney community.

Remember:

- let us know well in advance if you are having a reading-related event
- take photos at your event and email them to wordsunite@learningtrust.co.uk
- make use of the partnership section of the Words Unite website, www.gethackneyreading.com to help you with your publicity and marketing

RIF Pyjama Party

More than one-hundred children and teachers donned their pyjamas to celebrate reading at Sir Thomas Abney School on the 30 of January. Pupils from Years 1 and 5 excitedly chose the first of their three free books as part of the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) programme run by the National Literacy Trust in conjunction with The Learning Trust. The school is one of 53 schools taking part in RIF in Hackney, which is the only area to implement RIF borough-wide.

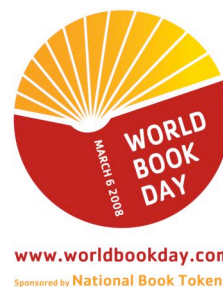
'The event was amazing, we were really impressed with the camp fire and tent, the reading areas, storytelling, drawing and singing. Hackney is a great example of a whole community working together to promote literacy. We're delighted to be working with The Learning Trust to inspire children across the borough to get reading.' says RIF Director Judith Parke (pictured far right.)



Hackney Big Read – World Book Day 6 March

Imagine – thousands of children, young people and adults reading aloud at the same time! The ‘Hackney Big Read’ is being held to celebrate World Book Day, Thursday 6 March.

‘We’re organising a simultaneous poetry reading and inviting schools, community groups, libraries and businesses to take part,’ says The Learning Trust CEO Alan Wood. ‘We’re asking schools to invite a volunteer to lead the reading. Community groups and businesses are encouraged to get as many people as possible and read it together.’



The poem will be written by Hackney’s own Poet Laureate Jamie Bell-Bradford, who was crowned on the 21 of January. Jamie will be writing and performing his own poems and attending many events in 2008.

An exciting event will also be held at the Town Hall Assembly Rooms with storytelling, poetry readings and a big read, led by Jamie Bell-Bradford. Details will be sent out to everyone in the next week.

The ‘Hackney Big Read’ kicks off at **11am, Thursday 6 March**. Put it in our diary and get involved.

Linklaters Reading and Writing Challenge



Poets, authors, artists and actors have been visiting Hackney schools to help them with the Words Unite Reading and Writing Challenge run by Linklaters, a global corporate law firm.

The 37 schools involved will be selecting winning entries in both competitions – and winners will be announced on 5 March. The winners will be performing their written work at the Hackney Big Read event on World Book Day at the Hackney Town Hall Assembly Rooms on 6 March.

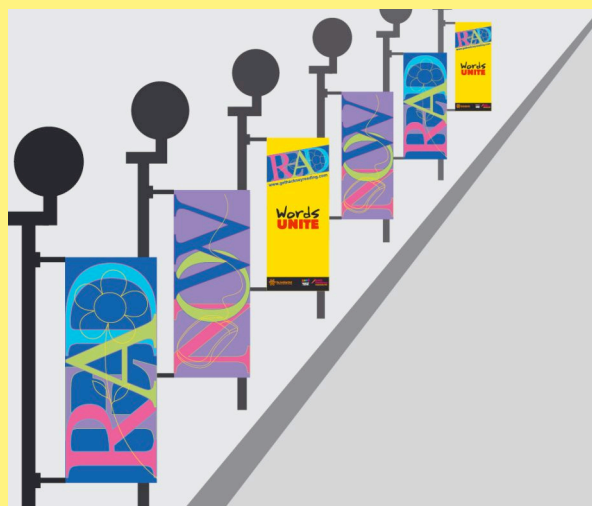
All of the entries will be collated to make up The Hackney Book being launched on 1 July at the Words Unite conference.

Caption: Pupil from Southwold School

Campaign Taken to New Heights

Look out for new Words Unite lamp post banners throughout the borough during February and March.

The design was inspired by London artist Michael Craig-Martin.

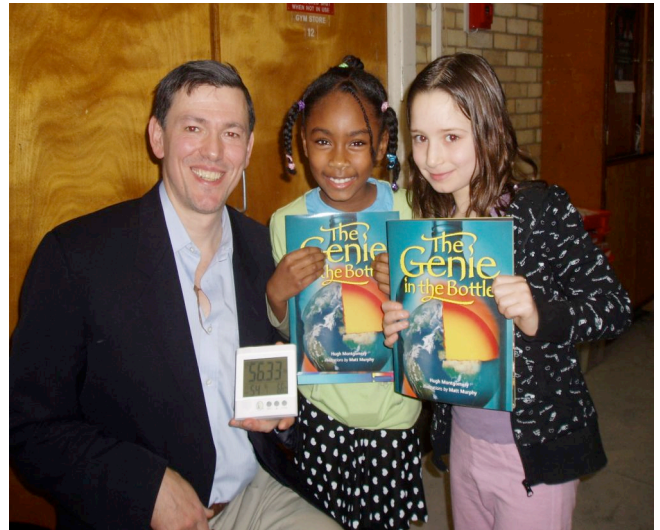


Save Power and Pounds with Project Genie

Lauriston Primary is one of several Hackney schools taking a second look at their carbon footprint with 'Project Genie'. At the heart of the project is children's book 'Genie in a Bottle' by Dr Hugh Montgomery, intensive care consultant and Hackney resident, which shows simple and effective ways we can all reduce energy use. The book is available to all pupils aged 7-11.

Lauriston Primary has also received an OWL, a new wireless technology that measures energy use. In one day the school reduced its energy use by 50% (£3.57/hr to £1.55/hr).

'If sustained, that's a saving (on an 8 hour day) of £4,000 on a 40 week year! That's also about 20 metric tonnes of CO2 saved per year,' says Dr Montgomery.



Dr Hugh Montgomery with Lauriston School pupils Tiziah Deans and Muireann Anck.

Hackney Pupils Put Top UK Authors To The Test



The Red House Children's Book Award, the only national children's book awards voted for entirely by children, is underway.

Once the 10 shortlisted books are announced on 11 February, pupils at 15 Hackney schools and two nurseries will receive the books and can vote for their favourite one.

'Hackney schools are getting more than 1,800 books for KS1 Foundation and KS2 pupils but it's not just about free literature. The competition gives children a change to read for pleasure,

discuss and share the books at school and contribute to a prestigious national book competition,' says The Learning Trust CEO Alan Wood. It's the first time a borough has been selected to judge the awards, funded by the Federation of Children's Book Groups.

Words Unite Conference – 1 July 2008

Two high profile Canadian literacy academics (David Booth and Avis Glaze) are headlining the Words Unite Conference on 1 July.

More than 200 teachers, community members and library representatives are invited to the event at the Queen Mary University of London in Mile End.

The conference is a showcase and celebration of the year's activities, events and work of everyone involved. It will include keynote speakers and interactive workshops. Each participant will receive The Hackney Book, a Words Unite and Linklaters collection of Hackney poems, stories and images.

Invites will be sent out later this month.

Olympic Roadshow 13 March

The London Olympic & Paralympic Games 2012 Roadshow is being held at The Ocean and Town Hall Square between 11am-7pm.

All you need to know about the upcoming Olympics!

How Schools Can Celebrate the National Year of Reading

- Develop a 'whole school' approach to reading by becoming a "Reading Connects" school
 - <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/readingconnects/index.html>
- Link with local libraries
 - <http://www.readingagency.org.uk/children/enjoying-reading/>
- Consider the resources available to support reading as part of Extended Schools policies
 - <http://www.continyou.org.uk/>
- Involve your local communities - schools will be measured on community cohesion by Ofsted from 2009 –think about reading buddy schemes, inter-generational activities, improving access to parents who have English as an Additional Language and volunteering opportunities.

Storytellers to Help You Celebrate

Janet Dowling

'I am a storyteller. I tell stories for performance and I run Storyteller Apprentice Workshops to help adults and children, at all different levels of ability, to learn how to tell and create stories for themselves. One way to promote reading is to promote the Art of Storytelling. Sometimes the amount of things to remember in a story from a book can be quite daunting. Learning the basic skills for storytelling can help develop the skills to learn how to manage the amount of information in a book!'

If you are interested in having a storyteller at your school, community group or business, contact Janet Dowling at www.JanetTellsStories.co.uk

Billy Teare

Irish storyteller Billy Teare has worked in hundreds of schools, libraries, community groups and performed at three hundred festivals around the world. Billy recites poetry, or uses chants, call backs and very simple stories that rely on sequences of events. He is a first class entertainer, as well as being educational and captivates even the youngest listeners. With older students, he tells multicultural stories, both modern and traditional and utilises the sequential thread of narrative, building on this as a tool for accelerated learning.

Fees are £200 for half a day or £300 for a full day (four sessions). Contact telltaleteare@hotmail.com

Adventures with Education Event - 4 March

More than 50 children being education outside the school system are celebrating reading with a big book event. It's being held at the Shoreditch Adventure Playground.

Events throughout the day include "The Great Book Swap", launch of a weekly book club for older group members, storytelling, drama, poetry writing and recital and a book binding workshop.

Contact: Saska Plowman
adventureswitheducation@googlemail.com

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Library Display Needs Your Creative Work

Have you got a piece of writing or a homemade book? A display is going up at the Hackney Central Library and you can showcase your work!

Contact
atia.hafeziee@learningtrust.co.uk

**Words
UNITE**

www.gethackneyreading.com