

WORD UP

The latest news on the community campaign to Get Hackney Reading

October 2007

Words Unite Paints Town Yellow



The community-wide campaign to Get Hackney Reading is underway! Hundreds of families flocked to the launch of Words Unite at the Hackney Town Hall on 6 October as part of Family Learning Week.

Book stalls, stilt walkers and jugglers, face painting, Bollywood dancers, Word Up (Countdown style game) and a book-related treasure hunt were enjoyed by all.

And news of the event travelled far – a yellow Words Unite balloon (accidentally let go) landed in Soham, Cambridgeshire and was picked up by Graham Loasby. He emailed us to say, “My wife and I are both teachers and met in London. We know Hackney well. I think what you are doing is great – good luck with the campaign.”

Go to www.gethackneyreading.com for upcoming events in your community!

Hackney Kids Bring Poetry to the Palace

Pupils from five Hackney schools were invited to meet the Queen and take part in poetry workshops at Buckingham Palace on 16 October. The event, organised by the Poetry Society, aimed to encourage young people to read, write and enjoy poetry. Children from Cardinal Pole R C Secondary School, Hackney Free and Parochial Church of England Secondary School, Skinners' Company's School for Girls, Clapton Girls' Technology College and Stoke Newington School: Media Arts & Science College took part.

Pupil Isaac Olapido said 'Meeting the Queen was an honour and a very exciting experience that I will always feel proud of. I just stood there in awe, the Queen of England in the same place, floating around the room, magical!'

Coming to your mailbox...

Posters featuring local Hackney people expressing their love for reading have been distributed to schools, childcare centres, community and voluntary organisations, health, and housing settings.

The Let's Get Hackney Reading Banner is available for events. Interested? email wordsunite@learningtrust.co.uk

From left: Poster example, banner in action



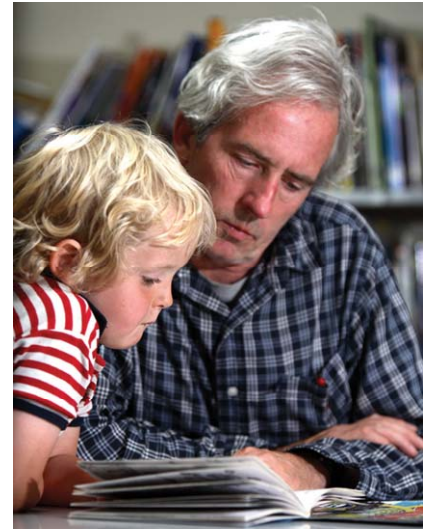
Staff urged to inspire kids to read

"I go every Monday lunchtime and it's a breath of fresh air. The children are great and eager to read to you" says The Learning Trust's Simone Bowen, one of 350 employee volunteers who visit Hackney primary schools to read with children aged 6 to 11 years.

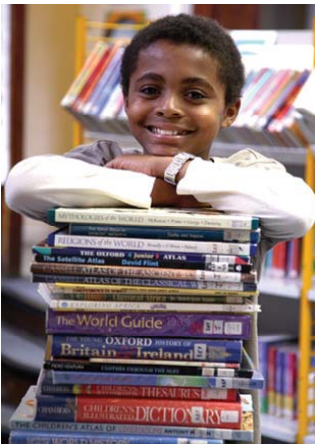
Inspire – the Education Business Partnership for Hackney, is encouraging businesses with five or more employees to help get Hackney reading by joining the Reading Partner Scheme.

"You develop your communication and coaching skills and have the satisfaction of knowing you're helping a Hackney child succeed," says Inspire Primary Programme Manager Karen Diamond.

All it takes is a 1.5 hour training session and completion of a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure form and you're reading to go! Interested? Contact Karen on 020 7275 6060 or karen.diamond@inspire-ebp.org.uk



The latest from libraries



Chatterbox reading clubs: For 8 to 12-year-olds every month in Stamford Hill and CLR James libraries. Reviews of favourite books are posted on the library walls to encourage other children to borrow them. Local authors are invited to attend the sessions.

Homework clubs: Children of all ages can do their homework in peace and quiet with help from tutors, free of charge. Laptops and printers are also available. Hackney Central Library, Thurs and Fri, (3.30-5.30pm) and Sat (11am-1pm) and Stoke Newington Library, Mon, Tues, Wed (3.30- 5.30pm)

Bookstart: Children (three and under) can receive free packs of books under a Government scheme. Parents and carers are invited to attend Bookstart sessions at their local library to claim the free packs and read the books together. www.bookstart.co.uk/parents-and-carers/Packs

Childminders Celebrate Christmas and Reading!

Childminding Networks and Mentors Seasonal Winter Gathering – Get Hackney Reading Theme
Wed 12 December 2007
@ Kidzmania
10:30am – 3pm
Bookstart resources available!
FREE books for children
FREE refreshments

For more information call Mumtaz 020 7254 9939

Keep in touch

* Don't forget to let us know about any reading-related event you have coming up. We can put it on www.gethackneyreading.com
* Need help organising your event? Check out the marketing toolkit online.

Word Up is published by the Words Unite Communications and Marketing Team, The Learning Trust, 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ. If you would like to contact us please email wordsunite@learningtrust.co.uk or call 020 8820 7078

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www.gethackneyreading.com