



# East Side Learning Center

“Unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading” since 2001

## The Bookmark

A Message from Sister Audrey -

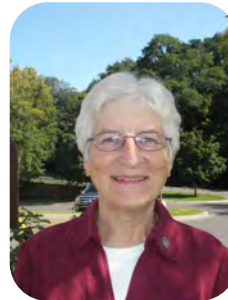
### CAN YOU THINK OF WORDS THAT BEGIN WITH THE SOUND OF ‘T’?

That is the question that Sr. Sharon White, OSF, asked kindergartner Serafina at Community of Peace Academy during her tutoring session. **With a twinkle in her eye, Serafina’s response was “T is for tutoring!”**

Recently one of the ELL teachers at Johnson Elementary shared this affirming message with ESLC: **“Tutors, your work with the students is evident. I have assessed several kindergartners whose reading skills were solid and when I ask them, ‘How did you get so smart?’ they say, ‘tutoring!’”**

**Our gratitude to YOU** our readers; our dedicated volunteers, tutors and staff; our generous donors and funders; our parents who offer reading encouragement at home, and the personnel in the home schools **for making the ‘T’ word possible for more than 280 children.**

Think of it...over 280 St. Paul children in K-3...each receiving one-on-one reading tutoring, four days a week, having the opportunity to feel success as a reader and becoming life-long learners because of your support.



It is difficult for me to adequately help you understand the impact you can have on our children. I say our children because I believe the children at ESLC belong to each of us as the caring adults in their tender lives. I often think...if I were the parent, wouldn’t I want MY child to benefit from ESLC tutoring so he/she could reach more of his/her potential?

**It’s impressive what we are doing together as a community through East Side Learning Center’s mission of “unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.”** ESLC provides a simple opportunity for everyone to play a part in the success of these children so the impact can reverberate over the entire St. Paul community for today and into the future.

**‘T’ is also for “Thank you.” In the names of our children, thank you for the care, love, and encouragement you are bringing into their lives through the other ‘T’ word... tutoring...one child, one book, one hour at a time.**



### You did it!

Thanks for meeting the \$20,000 challenge match from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation.

Your generosity during the 2014 calendar year went twice as far, providing one-on-one tutoring in reading, four days a week, for twice as many children.

### Thank you!

Let’s do it again!

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## WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO A CHILD'S READING DURING THE SUMMER?

A strong body of research shows that, without practice, students lose reading skills over the summer months and children from low-income families lose the **most**. This is commonly known as “summer slide.” Summer learning programs targeted to low-income students can help close the opportunity gap that has been attributed, at least in part, to cumulative learning loss during the summers and that has been shown to be steeper for low-income students than for others (National Summer Learning Association).

**Reading is one of the most important things students can do in the summer to keep their skills sharp so they can return to school in fall ready to learn.** A structured, fun reading program like East Side Learning Center is essential to getting at-risk children to read over the summer!

This summer ESLC will focus on kindergartners going into first grade to prevent them from falling behind. In addition, children will be able to choose free books each week to encourage at home reading and to continue reading during the remainder of the summer. ESLC also links the children to the St. Paul Public Library summer reading incentives. Our deepest desire is not just that they learn to read, but that they *enjoy* reading and feel a sense of pride, knowing “*I am a reader!*”

### How ESLC Will Address Summer Slide

#### **Summer Literacy Camp at John A. Johnson Elementary**

740 York Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106

For 50 children who just completed Kindergarten. Camp will be held all morning, **June 15 - July 9, 2015.**

Using *Down on the Farm* theme, children will rotate to three literacy opportunities: tutoring, literacy in math, and creative arts.

#### **Jump-Start Summer Literacy Camp at Community of Peace Academy**

471 Magnolia Ave. E, St. Paul, MN 55130

For 40 children who just completed Pre-K or Kindergarten. Camp will be held all morning, **July 20 - August 7, 2015.**

Using *Bugs and Butterflies* theme, children will rotate to three literacy opportunities: tutoring, technology, and creative arts.

#### **How Much Does Summer Literacy Camp Cost?**

\$300 sponsors a child for 4 weeks of summer reading camp.

\$20 sponsors a child for a day.

You can help kindergartners advance in reading during the summer

#### **Be a volunteer tutor**

Training and support provided! Contact Kristina  
kristina.scherber@spps.org, 651-793-7331



#### Easter Baskets for ESLC students at Saint Paul Music Academy

The week of March 23rd the Pax Christi Catholic Community generously made and donated 130 wonderful spring Easter baskets to the East Side Learning Center's St. Paul Music Academy site. These baskets were graciously received by 130 kindergarten, first and second grade students and their classmates. The students were so excited to be able to take this basket home to share with their families. Most of these students have never seen baskets containing so many fun and useful items, such as: Toothpaste and toothbrushes, puzzles, candy, toys, sidewalk chalk, books etc., all for them to share with their family members.

**Thank you Pax Christi Community for sharing this loving gesture of kindness to the children** that receive one-to-one tutoring through the East Side Learning Center.

## TIMBERWOLVES FASTBREAK FOUNDATION HONORS ESLC

The Timberwolves FastBreak Foundation recently recognized East Side Learning Center as a "March Hero in the Making." Ra'Von, first grader at St. Paul Music Academy, and Tou Ger, third grader at HOPE Community Academy, were the lucky attendees to represent ESLC at the March 2 game against the L.A. Clippers. Ra'Von joined Sister Audrey Lindenfesler, SSND, Executive Director of ESLC, for the pre-game presentation on center court.

"We are honored to have been recognized for providing tutoring to St. Paul students," said Sister Audrey. "And the students enjoyed every minute of the experience." ESLC received twelve free suite tickets hosted by ViaWest, and a signed basketball.

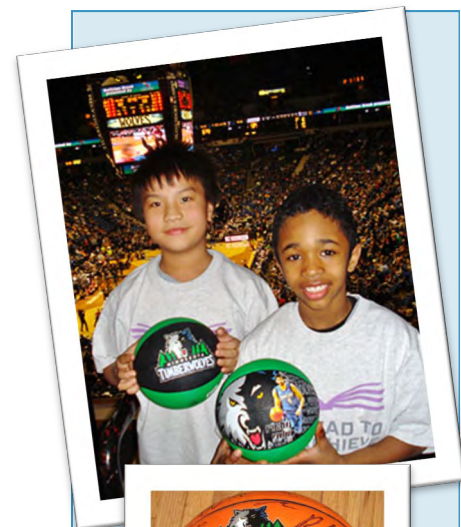
This was part of the foundation's celebration of Read to Achieve month, honoring individuals or organizations that spread a love of education and reading, especially in relation to Minnesota youth.

*"Thank you for letting me go to my very first NBA game. I can be a better fan now!" —Tou Ger*

*"I couldn't believe I was so close to the players that I could 'high-five' one of my favorite players, Andrew Wiggins." —Ra'Von*



*Ra'Von shares the memorable moment on center court with Ted Johnson, MN Timberwolves Sr. Vice President of Marketing & Communications, Sister Audrey, and Todd Meester, ViaWest Regional Vice President & General Manager.*



*Kindergartner Kennedy learns more about fishing while reading with tutor Josh Thao.*



*Kindergartner Judy's eyes say it all — "Relaxing with a book and my tutor, Sister Donna Walerius, is my favorite time of day."*

*Through ESLC tutoring support, over half the kindergartners reached their winter AIMSweb Assessment benchmarks for knowing letter names and sounds.*

*These children are jumping ahead and experiencing reading success!*



East Side Learning Center  
740 York Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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Thank you for your support

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#### EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER

ESLC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that relies on the generous donations of individuals and foundations dedicated to “unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.”

For the sake of children who could benefit from one-on-one tutoring with a caring adult or teen, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution.



#### THANK YOU!

We extend a big thank you to our ESLC donors and funders who are making all of this possible for our children!

Every dollar makes a difference at the ESLC, so please, if you know of anyone able to volunteer or donate \$10, \$20, or \$100, your gift matters. It only costs about \$60 for ESLC to give a child one week of one-on-one tutoring during the school year!

#### East Side Learning Center

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Saint Paul, MN 55106

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<http://www.eastsidelearningcenter.org>



#### ESLC receives a new challenge grant for 2015 from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation

You can **double your gift to the ESLC** by qualifying for this matching grant!

Donations that meet any of the following criteria will be matched:

- Dollar for dollar for all **new contributions**
- Dollar for dollar for **contributions from lapsed donors** who have not given for a year or more in support of the ESLC
- Dollar for dollar for **increased portion of contributions** of those who donated during the 2014 calendar year

**It's easy! You can donate using the enclosed envelope or online by visiting our website [www.eastsidelearningcenter.org](http://www.eastsidelearningcenter.org)**