



East Side Learning Center

"Unlocking each child's potential through the foundation of reading" since 2001

An educational partnership with the School Sisters of Notre Dame

The Bookmark

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10

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John A. Johnson
Achievement Plus Elem School
740 York Ave
St Paul, MN 55106



St. Paul Music Academy
27 Geranium Ave E
St Paul, MN 55117



HOPE Community Academy
720 Payne Ave
St. Paul, MN 55130



Community of Peace
471 Magnolia Ave
St. Paul, MN 55130

Kindergarten Tutoring - a Gift for All Students

This past school year ESLC tutored 115 Kindergarten students for 30 minutes, four times each week.

Teachers report that their students who receive tutoring show:

- Improved reading comprehension
- Increased confidence in their reading ability
- Less shyness in the classroom
- Eagerness to participate in tutoring
- Increased self-confidence

What about the impact in the classroom? Laurie K, a Kindergarten teacher at John A. Johnson, describes ESLC's tutoring program as a **gift to all the students in her classroom.**

The students who receive tutoring love it - they jump up and race to the door with big smiles on their faces each day when tutoring time comes around. The students who do not receive tutoring love the time in the classroom when there are fewer students. Laurie



feels she is able to give these students more time and attention than she would otherwise.

In addition, much of what Laurie teaches in her classroom is repeated during tutoring. This is especially helpful for her many English Language Learners whose native language is not English.

Kirstin S. a Kindergarten teacher from Community of Peace Academy reflects: "Clearly, the East Side Learning Center's mission is to unlock

each child's potential through the foundation of reading no matter what. At CPA, there is sufficient evidence that Sister Sharon and the ESLC tutors did that. The 1:1 tutoring allowed children to receive the extra time and attention they needed in order to thrive. I witnessed amazing success with students that many predicted would struggle.

What I did not expect was the enrichment to my experience as a teacher. Sister Sharon and the wonderful tutors (who love my students as much as I do) are making me a better teacher. It is inspiring to spend time with people who believe so deeply in the potential of all children. **The educators with ESLC always seek solutions and discover new ways to teach. They are creative. They don't give up.**"

94% of kindergartners who received at least 30 hours of tutoring in 2013 -14 were first grade ready.

Help ESLC Reach More Students

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

Help match a \$20,000 challenge grant from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation by December 31, 2014

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 2013 calendar year

It is easy with the enclosed envelope. Or if you prefer to donate online visit our website www.eastsidelearningcenter.org and click on the giveMN.org logo.

You helped ESLC receive a \$20,000 challenge grant last year. Let's do it again!



Thank you for your support!

East Side Learning Center Helps Children Avoid “Summer Reading Slide”

What causes children to ‘backslide’ in reading fluency, comprehension and skills over the summer months? The answer to this vexing concern is a single and simple one: NOT READING! Current educational research presents a startling portrait of what can happen to a child’s reading growth over the summer months.

“What we know is that children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development while kids who do read tend to gain a month of reading proficiency. This creates a three to four month gap every year. Every two or three years the kids who don’t read in the summer fall a year behind the kids who do.” Allington, R. L., & McGill-Franzen, A. (2013). Summer reading: Closing the rich/poor reading achievement gap. New York: Teachers College Press



Under the Sea Literacy Camp Bulletin Board

Knowing how important it is for children to continue reading over the summer break, East Side Learning Center partnered with John A. Johnson Elementary for its Summer Session Term I, a four- week learning experience for children in late June and early July. Daily, fifty children in grades K- 2 received 45 minutes of reading instruction one-on-one with a professional educator or trained adult community volunteer. Instruction included reading skills review, sight word memorization, reading aloud and being read to daily. Summer-term 1 Site Administrator, Angelica Van Iperen, expresses her gratitude to ESLC staff and volunteers:

“The East Side Learning Center tutors **are dedicated to providing reading instruction** to those children who might not otherwise be receiving instruction at **their "just right" level**. Research shows that kids learn best when they consistently work at tasks that are not too difficult nor too easy. The tutors provide this gift for each individual child in individualized reading instruction, and they use best practices. **As a result we have seen students reading with better fluency.**”

One particular student this summer brought this all to life. An active kindergarten boy who struggles with focusing and attention has been receiving tutoring. I was observing his classroom when a classmate struggled with reading sight words during a word game. He said, "I know!" He read off every word quickly and confidently then proceeded to do his letter work at his desk, on-task for a full 20 minutes! He was so happy to show that he was reading many words to automaticity. Thank you East Side Learning tutors!”

Jump Start Literacy Camp Offered to Kindergarten Students at Community of Peace Academy

In another effort to lessen summer slide and to prepare students for re-entry into school the East Side Learning Center in partnership with Community of Peace Academy offered a late summer (July/August) instructional program. Thirty learners who will enter Kindergarten or First Grade this fall participated in a four-week jump start literacy camp.

Focusing on an “Under the Sea” theme children received reading support by attending three 45-minute sessions, Monday through Thursday. Professional educators and volunteers provided one-on-one tutoring, iPad literacy instruction and enrichment in poetry, music and art.

ESLC/CPA staff and dedicated volunteers from the community invested both time and talent to empower children to be successful readers. It was rewarding to hear eager readers ask with enthusiasm each morning “What are we going to do today?” After one week of literacy camp **a struggling reader’s boost in confidence was expressed with these words: “I am the do not give up kid!”**

At both sites children were given free books each week to encourage at home reading and to continue reading during the remainder of the summer. ESLC also linked the children to the St. Paul Public Library summer reading incentives.

When school resumes this fall, ESLC will continue its partnership with Johnson Elementary, St. Paul Music Academy, Community of Peace Academy, and Hope Community Academy offering free one-on-one tutoring. Committed to its mission of “unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading” ESLC helps students to improve their reading skills, find enjoyment in reading and become lifelong readers.



One Child. One Book. One Hour.

Will you be the one to make a difference?

UBS Financial Services Tutoring Teams Are Committed to ESLC

For many individuals finding free time during their busy day is a challenge. We applaud all of those people who make time in their calendar to assist our students in becoming better readers. Most of our volunteers are individuals who are either retired or are university students, but a handful of our volunteers are also working professionals, who go above and beyond their work day to make change in their community.

We are very fortunate to have UBS Financial Services Inc. as our partner. The UBS tutoring team came to us through the St. Paul Public School Foundation in 2010 and UBS has been committed to our students since.

In order to ensure that they are able to keep their one hour a week commitment, the UBS volunteers partner with another coworker. This way they can share the responsibility of tutoring a child by taking turns every other week.

This past year there were three UBS tutoring teams, which means that at least three students had caring adults that they knew would be there for them every Thursday. The tutors included Tom Keyes, Patti Keyes, Rachel Orvik, Dave Betz, Anna Neumann, and Keith Stein.

It was clear to see that the UBS tutors really enjoyed tutoring their students and that the students also formed bonds with their tutors.



UBS tutor, Rachel Orvik



UBS tutor, Patti Keyes

UBS tutor, Patti Keyes, had this to say about her experience:

"I was at first reluctant to make the time commitment to act as a reading tutor with East Side Learning Center during the school year.



UBS Tutor, Tom Keyes

2013-14 At A Glance
295 Children served
175 Volunteer Tutors
31 Part-time Educators
4889 Volunteer Hours
7547 Part-time Educator & Staff Hours
12,426 Hours of Tutoring

But, after starting with the program, I realized how many students were in such dire need and what a difference I could make through such a small commitment of time.

You don't need to be a teaching professional. Each student's tutoring plan is created by their teacher and is very easy to follow.

I have been a tutor with the program for two years and have personally witnessed remarkable progress in both of the students that I worked with. I'm happy to be contributing to such a great program!"

We would love to form more tutoring teams with caring professionals who can give some of their time to help St. Paul students become successful readers. If you or your organization would like to speak with someone about tutoring at the ESLC please contact Kristina Scherber.



UBS Tutor, Anna Neumann

To volunteer, contact:

Kristina Scherber

651-793-7364 or
kristina.scherber@spps.org



One Child. One Book. One Hour.

Will you be the one to make a difference?

Thank You Pax Christi Catholic Community!



What do you expect to find in a spring or Easter basket? When 165 of our kindergartners and first graders were presented with these colorful baskets our students were totally surprised. The sparkle of delight in their eyes and their spontaneous dancing for joy revealed their excitement!

Our students were awed by the fact that "people who don't even know us are being good friends!" Hnub Ci voiced this thought and the others around her agreed.

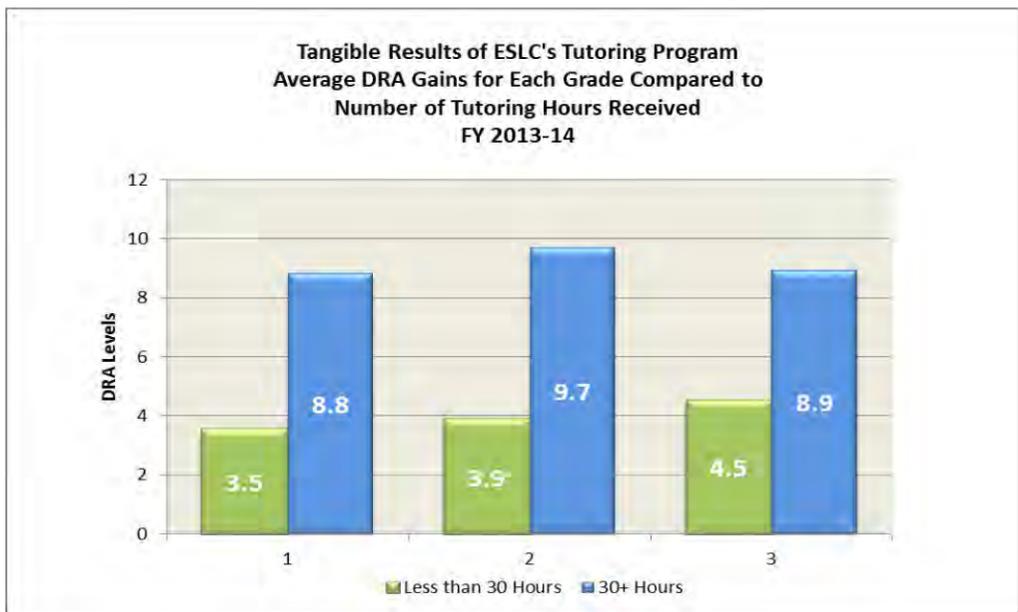
Since 2009 the generous members of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie have surprised our students with baskets, which for many, was their first ever!

Besides containing the traditional candy, the baskets also included books, games, shampoo, toothbrushes, and other personal items. This generosity also provided our students the opportunity to share with their own families as the members of Pax Christi had shared with them. Very quickly after receiving the baskets we heard little ones talking about how he/she was going to give things in the basket to a sibling or parent when they got home. They genuinely seemed as excited about giving as they did about receiving. What a great lesson our friends at Pax Christi taught them!



One Child. One Book. One Hour.

Will you be the one to make a difference?



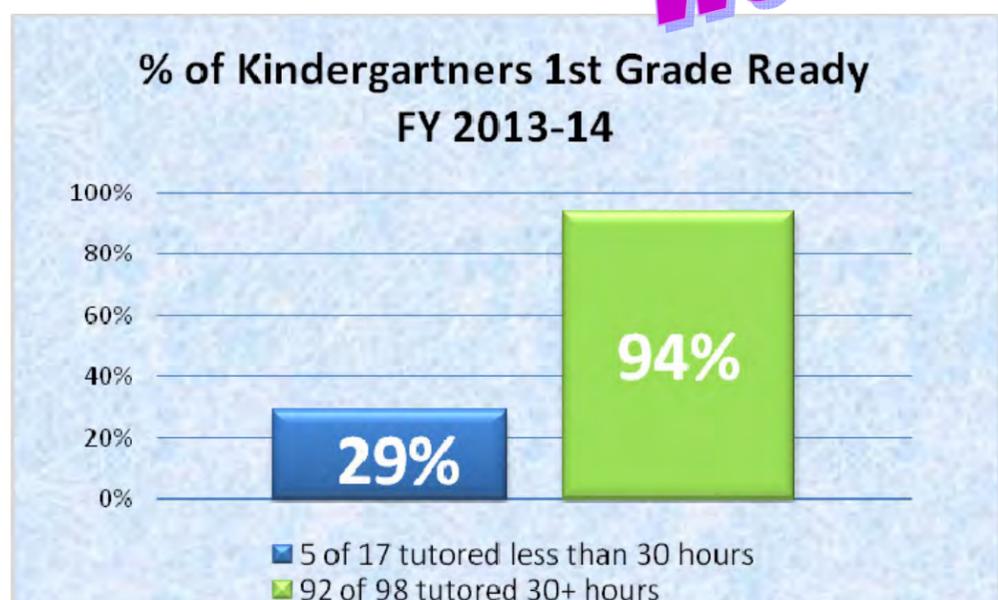
DRA - Development Reading Assessment



Of all children receiving at least 30 hours of tutoring in 2013-14:

- ✓ 94% (92 of 98) of kindergartners were first-grade ready
- ✓ 58% (36 of 62) of 1st graders, and
- ✓ 76% (45 of 59) of 2nd and 3rd graders reached their ESLC reading goals

Wow!



Thank you volunteer & professional tutors

The Word on the Street...

Many children do not have the opportunity to read at home with their families. It is volunteers who are key to helping “unlock each child’s potential through the foundation of reading.” Thank you for touching the lives of the children you tutored, strengthening the ESLC program with your presence, and giving hope to Saint Paul communities.



Asia discovers what happens when she mixes primary colors using shaving cream and food coloring as she reads *All the Colors of the World* with her tutor, Dianne Gerlach.

“...thank you for allowing me to be a part of the East Side Learning Center program. It is such a wonderful way to enrich the lives, and more importantly, the futures of these young students. It has also enriched my retirement years, so thank you for the opportunity to teach, which is something I genuinely love doing. Thank you also for the wonderful tutor-enrichment-sessions you provide for us to enrich our teaching!”

Peg Wolters, tutor



Dernell, Grade 2, and volunteer tutor Mai Lee share an after school snack and a good book – a great way to wrap up a school day.

I believe the East Side Learning Center is a valuable asset to the community. Not only have students been able to develop stronger reading skills and strategies due to the tutoring they receive, they have established connections with adults who care about them. They also become more confident and proud of themselves as they become more fluent readers, which benefits them in the classroom as well.

Carrie Cannon, SPPS educator



Student Keith, Grade 3, is Mr. Delightful from the tip of his head to end of his toes. Keith and his tutor, Shaquille, are ready to play “Run For Your Life,” reviewing consonant digraphs: sh, ch, th, wh.

I just finished testing Natasha (pseudonym) and she is at Level H. From Level B to an H since I fall! Wow! I love the tutoring, our kids are very lucky. Thanks.

Claudia Nelson, SPPS educator



Student Mina, Grade 1, shows her volunteer tutor, Tang Vang, which two words on the wheels make the contractions.

“I know I don’t know all my letters and sounds so that’s why I’m here. You help me and that makes me happy.”

Kindergartner Jesse announced to his tutor, Rebecca



The eyes say it all – “I’m learning to read and I love helping you!” Volunteer, Mary Mohan and Kee Lar, Grade 2

“I am now going to Murray Junior High School...I am getting A’s for my grades so far.”

Ty, a student who benefitted from 3.5 years of tutoring at ESLC

**One Child.
One Book.
One Hour.**

**YOU will be the one to
make a difference!**

Funders & Donors

The ESLC is coming off a wonderful year and we are looking to carry this momentum into the 2014-2015 school year. Over the last year community volunteers and professional educators tutored 295 students. In the coming year we expect to tutor 320 children, including 130 kindergarteners and summer session students. This shows the commitment of not only the organization but also the volunteers, teachers, schools, parents, and most importantly, the students. A successful community requires that everyone comes together to work for a common goal, and at ESLC we are “unlocking each child’s potential through the foundation of reading” one student at a time.

Your support of ESLC makes all the difference. This past year we welcomed a number of new donors to the committed group that has supported ESLC for years. At ESLC, every contribution, whether it is \$10, \$20, or \$50, makes it possible for more children to become life-long learners. We know that our work makes a difference; we can see it on the faces of the students and in the results! Last year alone, of those students tutored 30 hours or more, 94% of kindergarteners were first-grade ready, while 58% of first graders and 76% of 2nd and 3rd graders reached their ESLC reading goals. In total, our staff and 175 volunteers were able to help 173 children who were falling behind experience reading success by the end of the school year.

To make these miracles happen, the ESLC depends exclusively on your generosity! All private donations can be made on-line at www.eastsidelearningcenter.org, or mailed.

A big THANK YOU to our individual contributors!

Dean Andrew
Ida Arnold
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Benny and Jo Benson
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3M (Volunteer Matching)
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Thank you Funders, Donors and In-Kind Contributors!

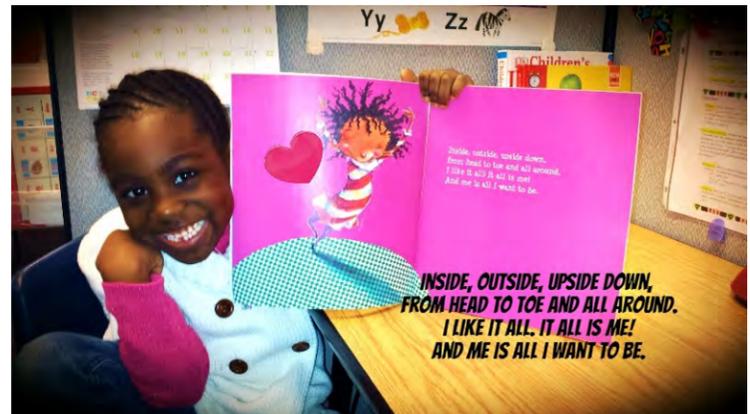
What do you see? I see big dreams....

Do you see what I see? Look closely at this colorful newsletter, and especially at the faces of the children being tutored. The first thing that you'll probably notice are their smiles. Beautiful, aren't they?

Look a little closer, for each picture tells a story. Do you see the determination, the sense of pride and accomplishment? Most importantly, do you see the potential in each tiny face? Whenever I see children, I can't help but dream the biggest dreams for each one. There is a future surgeon, an artist who captures our feelings, the scientist who finds the cure for the common cold, the poet who touches our souls, the business person who reinvents organizations.

The staff and volunteers of the East Side Learning Center help these children learn to read. We have the statistics and numbers that show each child's progress. If you want the numbers, you can find them back on page 4. But if you really want to see the good that the East Side Learning Center does, look again at one of those faces.

Look at the joy that comes from reaching a goal. See the self-confidence in those eyes. Look for the thirst for knowledge that has been unleashed. And then, look into the future and see opportunities, opening doors, and big dreams. All this because that child can read.



Nifemi is reading I Like Myself! By Karen Beaumont, Harcourt, 2004.

Help ESLC Continue Giving Free Books

Many of our students do not have books at home with which to practice their reading skills.

Please donate new or gently used books, suitable for grades K-3.

Books may be dropped off at any ESLC location or call 651-793-7331.

Thank you!



One Child. One Book. One Hour.

Will you be the one to make a difference?

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 Audrey.lindenfelser@spps.org

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Our Core Values are summarized as

LEARN

- LOVING**, affirming and respectful atmosphere
- EDUCATION** that transforms, encouraging each child to reach the fullness of his/her potential
- ACCOUNTABILITY** and careful stewardship of community resources
- RESULTS**, driven by high quality, systematic approach and academic rigor
- NEEDS** of children drive where resources are allocated



You create successful readers!

ESLC CONTACT INFORMATION

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SSND School Sisters of Notre Dame Ministries	www.ssndcentralpacific.org

Online with ESLC

Have you seen ESLC's **website?**

www.eastsidelearningcenter.org

If you haven't visited it lately, we invite you to explore what's there.

In addition to our updated website, you can find ESLC on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Sign up and become a friend of ESLC.

Finally, after you have visited us on the web, let us know what you think. Our emails are to the left.
Happy surfing!



Thank You ESLC Staff, Board, Communications Committee and
 Ideal Printers for Your Time, Talent, Commitment and Contribution to this
 Newsletter