

MEDIA ALERT*PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

600 Community Volunteers Share the Joy of Reading with Bridgeport Students

WHAT: Read Aloud Day 2010 - 25th Anniversary Event

WHEN: October 21, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: 30 Bridgeport Public Elementary Schools

WHO: The School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport, Inc.

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The School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport (SVA) will sponsor its 25th annual Read Aloud Day on October 21, 2010. Over 600 volunteers from Bridgeport and the surrounding communities will share the joy of reading in every pre-kindergarten through sixth grade class in the Bridgeport Public Schools. SVA will provide the wonderful children's books which will be read and then donated to the classroom libraries.

One notable volunteer will be Thad Krasnesky, author of the book selected to be read to all first grade classes, "That Cat Can't Stay." Mr. Krasnesky is an author and Army major who served three tours of duty in Iraq. He currently works as an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Three celebrities from the Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus will also join us as readers.

Eileen Sheridan, who was the Coordinator of Children's Services for the Bridgeport Public Library, served as SVA's first chairwoman of Read Aloud Day in 1985. It was intended to be a one-time event, but the response was so positive that it has continued for 25 years.

Peggy Villani currently chairs Read Aloud Day. She states that, "Reading aloud to children helps them to improve their literacy not only by exposing them to new words and context but also by helping them to view reading as an activity that is fun to do. Children who enjoy reading are more likely to read more and thus improve their reading skills. Quality literature also opens the doors to new life experiences and provides meaning to the children's everyday lives. Readers serve as great role models who show children that they genuinely enjoy reading and further encourage them to strive to do their best. Finally, readers report that they really enjoy this event!"

Read Aloud Day 2010 is made possible through the generosity of SVA's sponsors: AltruShare Securities, LLC, Fairfield University, Gexpro, Newcity Foundation, Océ North America, Document Printing Systems, People's United Bank and the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County.