



Sharing the love and joy of reading aloud

Planet

A Read To Me International Publication

Spring 2007

Read To Me International Receives \$1.25 Million Federal Grant

New Program Provides Services for Inmates Housed in Arizona

Thanks to a “Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Grant” received last fall from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Read To Me International (RTMI) will be launching a new program, Fathers Bridging the Miles, at the Red Rock Correctional Facility in Arizona.

Funded through a five-year grant for \$1.25 million, the program will target fathers with children ages 2—10 years old. Unlike RTMI’s current Prison Literacy Project, which is conducted at five correctional institutions on four islands and which focuses primarily on selecting and recording stories that parents and grandparents send home to their children and grandchildren, the Fathers Bridging the Miles program will include a year-long parenting class which will help prepare fathers for their eventual return to their children and families. Other components of the program will include group mentoring sessions, letter writing, and video conferencing.

Currently, there are approximately 1,900 inmates housed outside of Hawaii, 1,750 of which are male felons. The Hawaii Department of Public Safety began relocating its inmates to out-of-state contract facilities in 1995, and since then, inmates have been housed in Texas, Minnesota, Arizona, Mississippi, and Tennessee. By the end of 2007, however, all Hawaii inmates sent out of state will be located in a single facility in Eloy, Arizona.

The barriers to maintaining meaningful relationships between inmate parents and their children loom large. Visits and telephone calls are hampered by costs and time differences between Hawaii and the mainland. The Fathers Bridging the Miles program allows fathers a way to remain connected with their children through books and provides a reason for the fathers to stay out of trouble once they are released.

Read To Me International’s work with incarcerated parents is making meaningful differences for families. Pat Mizuno, RTMI Program Director, recently ran into a former program participant from the Waiawa Correctional Facility with his three young children in tow. The proud papa that he was, he introduced each one to her. When he was done, Pat bent down and asked them if their daddy read to them. Their reply? “Yes, every day!”

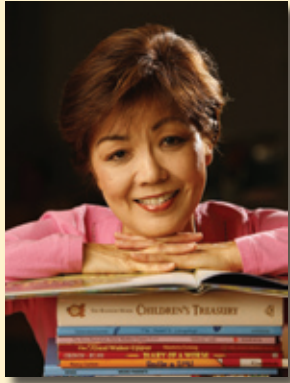
In the end, it’s all about bringing children, parents and books together to create families that bond together and read together.



Fathers Bridging the Miles



President's Message



Executive Director
Liane Kam Akana

Community Outreach Director
Jenny Teo

Program Director
Pat Mizuno

Newsletter Design & Editor
Bettina Mehnert

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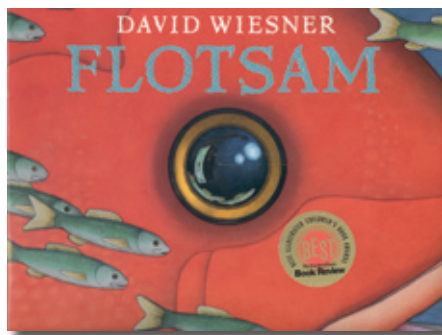
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www.readtomeintl.org

One of the challenges America faces is the lackluster performance of its students in the areas of math and science. With technology advancing as rapidly as it is, America must conduct business – not as usual – if it hopes to maintain leadership in the high tech arena.

According to Nobel Prize winner Dr. Steven Chu, Lab Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the future prosperity of America lies in its leadership in science and technology. Further, he states that early education is crucial for the U.S. to train its own leaders, beginning in kindergarten. (Others would suggest even earlier.)

What better way to pique children's interest in the areas of math and science than by reading aloud related books and stories that will stimulate them? And how better to keep interest in those areas alive than by continuing to read such high-interest books to children throughout their education?



Consider how books can lead to inquiry and deduction in an enjoyable, non-threatening manner. *Flotsam*, a Caldecott and multiple award-winning book by author/illustrator David Wiesner, is an exquisitely beautiful wordless picture book worth well over the traditional "thousand words/picture." Children of any background will be able to interpret the book through their own experience and point of view.

Let us raise children who are excited to participate in their own education. Let us support their quest and zest for learning by reading aloud and sharing stories with them!

A Few Crowd-Pleasing Math & Science Picture Books

Amazing Animal Facts

by Jacqui Bailey

One Grain of Rice

by Demi

The Grapes of Math

by Greg Tang



I Had a Dollar in Hawai'i

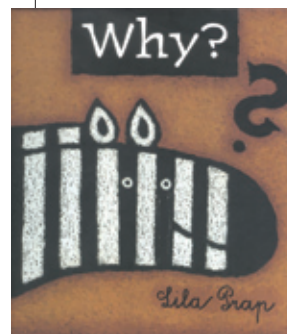
by Jodi Endicott

Math Curse

by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Why?

by Lila Prap



(Attend the 2007 Read To Me Conference, "The Magic of Reading," and learn how to integrate picture books to promote math and science.)

Lynne Waihee



Making A Difference

There is no greater reward for the staff, board and volunteers of an organization than to receive unsolicited confirmation that their work is making a difference. Recently, we received a number of such confirmations.

Following a presentation to the pregnant and parenting students at Waipahu High School, Program Director Pat Mizuno and Community Outreach Director, Jenny Teo, received thank you letters from the students. Among them was a particularly well-written letter from a teen who wrote "Thank you, ladies, for coming to our Human Development class . . . I am familiar with the Read To Me program because my mom is currently a prisoner at the Women's Correctional Center. Since my mom is in prison, the only way she can bond with my little siblings is by sending them books and cassette tapes which includes her reading a book she selected.

I never realized how much reading to a child and even infants can benefit them. Now I know that reading to children will help build

their vocabulary and imagination and, most importantly, create a bond between the reader and the child.

In the future, I want my children to succeed academically, and now I know that reading to my child will help make this happen; it will also create a better bond between me and my children."



We also received a letter from Haoli Jarra, a father at Waiawa Correctional Center, who wrote: "I have been locked up for about four years. I had no connection with my daughter, which I didn't think was healthy. When I came to Waiawa, I heard about this program called Read To Me. I decided to take it

up and to see what would happen. When she (my daughter) came to visit me, her mother told me that my daughter reads the books and listens to the recordings all the time. So this program has been a great way to connect with my child. I hope this program will help others as it [has] helped me. Thank you!"

Working with inmate parents has taught us how precious time spent with family is — especially for children. A father inmate from Waiawa expressed his bittersweet feelings as he realized how much his child enjoyed getting the books in the mail and hearing his voice in the recordings; yet, at the same time he realized how much more enjoyment he could be giving his child if he were there in person.

Let's not take for granted our ability to hold our children close and share a good story with them — everyday!



Oahu

Waiawa Correctional Center
(30 men)

Women's Community Correctional Center
(10 – 12 women)

Laumaka Work Furlough Center
(2-4 men)

Neighbor Island

Kauai Community Correctional Center
(4-6 women)

Maui Community Correctional Center
(6-8 men)

Hawaii Community Correctional Center
(20 women)

Fathers Bridging the Miles

Arizona

Red Rock Correctional Center
(60 men)



Thursday, June 28, 2007

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**
Registration / Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.**
Opening Plenary Session
– Mem Fox
- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
Book Signing / Vendors
- 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.**
Community Building Session
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**
Luncheon Session
– Dr. Elizabeth Lindsey
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.**
Concurrent Sessions I
- 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.**
Concurrent Sessions II

Friday, June 29, 2007

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**
Registration/
Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**
Plenary Session
– Rosemary Wells
- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**
Book Signing / Vendors
- 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.**
Hawai'i Authors Panel
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**
Luncheon Session
– Derek Kurisu
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.**
Concurrent Sessions III
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**
Story Book Fun

Come Discover The Magic of Reading On June 28-29

Welcome to “The Magic of Reading” planned for the 2007 Read To Me Conference at the Hawai'i Convention Center, where everything you could possibly hope for in a children's literacy conference will magically appear. Join us for two days of sheer joy and inspiration as you hear outstanding authors, speakers, and presenters cast their spell on you and leave you excited to engage in your child's world of books and literacy!

Whether you're an early childhood educator, an elementary or middle school teacher, a librarian, a parent, a caregiver, a children's program manager, or just someone who is interested in sharing the love and joy of reading aloud, this conference is for you!

Discover the magic of reading! Join us for:

- Information on why reading aloud is important at every stage of a child's development
- Practical ideas to incorporate reading aloud into everyday activities
- Read-aloud tips and techniques
- Storytelling ideas
- Hands-on and standards-based workshops
- Interaction with friends and colleagues
- Read-To-Me FUN!

Featured Authors & Luncheon Speakers

Mem Fox

Featured Author



Mem Fox is Australia's best loved picture-book author. She was also an Associate Professor in Literacy Studies at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia, where she taught teachers for twenty-four years until her retirement in 1996.

Mem's first book, *Possum Magic*, published in 1983, was the best selling children's book ever in Australia with sales of almost three million. She has written thirty picture books for children and five non-fiction books for adults, including the best selling *Reading Magic*, aimed at parents of young children.

Over the years Mem has received many academic and civic awards in Australia and was a finalist in the Australian of the Year award in 2004. She is now a much sought-after international consultant in literacy, although she pretends to sit around writing full time.

To get a complete list of the books Mem Fox has written, or to learn more about her, please visit www.MemFox.com.





Rosemary Wells

Featured Author



Born in 1943 in New York City, Rosemary Wells grew up in New Jersey with both her parents in the theatre. She spent most of her childhood outdoors, roaming the woods and playing baseball.

Nights were spent indoors, drawing.

Rosemary went to Museum School in Boston (part of Tufts) and left early to put her husband through architecture school. She began publishing children's books in 1968 after working several years in the design department of two publishers. She has published over 120 books for both older kids and younger readers. This year, her novel about the American Civil War, *Red Moon at Sharpsburg*, will be published.

Rosemary reads and studies widely, and publishes in many different areas. She says this constant curiosity is what gets her up in the morning and causes her to put out the lights with reluctance at night.

To get a complete list of the books Rosemary Wells has written and illustrated, or to learn more about her, please visit www.RosemaryWells.com.

Elizabeth Kapu'uwailani Lindsey Ph.D

Luncheon Speaker



Raised by native Hawaiian elders, Dr. Elizabeth Kapu'uwailani Lindsey is an esteemed international speaker who captivates audiences with her passion for ancestral wisdom.

Such ancient knowledge has much to offer a modern world. Her speaking engagements include Capitol Hill, Harvard University, the

Smithsonian Institute, and the American Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Lindsey's 1995 award-winning documentary "Then There Were None" has become a Hawaiian history classic. The film, which is used in universities throughout the world for the advancement of cultural diversity, has just been released on DVD with both Hawaiian and English narration.

A former Miss Hawai'i, Dr. Lindsey serves as an advisor to the Trustees of the Kamehameha Schools, the Mauna Kea Astronomy Educational Center, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, as well as PBS Hawai'i, where she serves as a board member.

To learn more about Dr. Elizabeth Lindsey, please visit www.ElizabethLindsey.com.

Derek Kurisu

Luncheon Speaker



Derek Kurisu has an ambitious goal: to make the Big Island and Hawai'i the greatest place on earth. The Executive Vice President of Perishable Operation for KTA Super Stores on the Big Island, Derek has been with his family's business for 38 years, having held positions such as clerk and meat cutter. His greatest business accomplishment is creating Mountain Apple Brand products, a private label which promotes local products and currently features over 285 items and 80 business partnerships.

Derek uses Mountain Apple Brand products as "teaching tools" for students, businesses, and non-profit organizations, and he also produces three cable television programs, "Living in Paradise," "Seniors Living in Paradise," and "Live in Paradise." A member of numerous advisory boards, Derek has received many awards, the most recent being the State of Hawaii Friend of Agriculture Award in 2006.

Conference Registration

Please call (808) 955-7600 for a registration form or download one at www.ReadToMeIntl.org from the conference section. Attendees must submit their registration form with full payment to secure their space for the conference. Conference fees include continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials for both days.

Early Registration
\$175 (through May 15, 2007)

Regular Registration
\$200 (May 16 – June 6, 2007)

Late Registration
\$225 (June 7 – 22, 2007)
Registrations after June 22, 2007 will be on a space available basis. Please call (808) 955-7600 to inquire. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Professional Development

Professional development credits are available for DOE teachers. Please contact Patricia Nichols at patricia_nichols@notes.k12.hi.us for more information.

For early childhood educators, information regarding ASK Core Area credits for the Registry will be posted on www.ReadToMeIntl.org in the conference section.

Accommodations

The Ala Moana Hotel is offering special conference room rates starting from \$139* plus tax per night. The hotel is located on 410 Atkinson Drive, across from the Hawai'i Convention Center and adjacent to the Ala Moana Shopping Center.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 955-4811 if calling from Oahu, 1-800-446-8990 if calling from the neighbor islands, or 1-800-367-6025 if calling from the mainland United States. Please ask for the Read To Me Conference rate when making reservations.

**Rates are guaranteed through May 27, 2007. After May 27, 2007, the special conference rate will be based on space availability only.*

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need accommodation for a disability covered by Federal or State disability laws, please contact us at (808) 955-7600 at least 15 days prior to the event. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, please feel free to contact us via the relay system. Call 1 (877) 447-5990 for TTY service if calling from Hawaii, or 711 if calling from anywhere within the United States.



A Fundraising Way to Shop

Who is eScrip?

Electronic Scrip Incorporated (ESI) is a California-based corporation dedicated to establishing relationships between commerce and community by providing resources to organizations that support children. Started in 1999, the eScrip program has distributed over \$120 million to schools and youth organizations across the country.

How safe is eScrip?

Safeguarding personal information is one of eScrip's highest commitments, and its systems have met the strict requirements in the area of security, safety and confidentiality. eScrip will not license, sell, exchange or distribute any specific information about its participants to any third parties who are not directly involved in the program.

Do you own a Macy's card? What about a store card from Office Max or Linens N Things? Do you use VISA, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, Diners or ATM/debit cards to pay for your daily purchases? What if you can contribute a small percentage of every purchase you make with these store or credit/debit cards to further Read To Me's mission and help Read To Me provide important services to the community and families?

Now you can, and all you have to do is to enroll online at www.eScrip.com. It takes just a couple of minutes to enroll, and you'll be on your way to helping Read To Me earn money each time you spend! It's "free" money that will otherwise go unclaimed, and with your quick, easy, and secure one-time enrollment, it will help contribute funds towards a worthwhile cause of increasing children's literacy.



So sign up today and the next time you're at Macy's, Office Max, a restaurant, a gas station, or a supermarket, and you pay with your store, credit or debit card, enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you're helping to raise a generation of readers.

Enroll today at www.eScrip.com and start making a difference in a child's life!

SIGN UP TODAY!
It's quick, easy, safe, and costs you nothing!

1. Go to www.eScrip.com.
2. Click on "Sign Up."
3. Designate Read To Me International Foundation as the group you'd like to support and follow the instructions to register your cards.

Group Name:

Read To Me International Foundation

Group ID:

#50005564



That's it! It's quick, safe, secure, and hassle-free! Every purchase you make with the cards you registered counts!

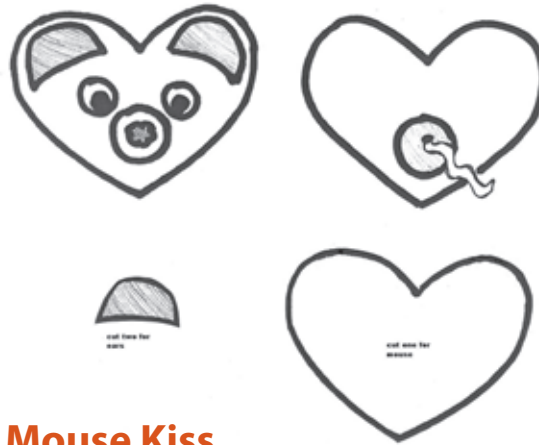
You can track your contributions, make changes to your account, and also shop online at hundreds of eScrip merchants that offer myriad products and services.



Mouse Kiss

By Tiffany Aoyama

During spring, life is renewed and love is in the air. What better way to celebrate the season than by showing your appreciation to loved ones. *I Love You Always and Forever* by Jonathan Emmett is a sweet story about enduring and unconditional love. Whether you have a little sweetie or a big sweetheart, he or she will enjoy hearing this great story and making this adorable craft.



Mouse Kiss

Glue

Pink and red construction paper

Two wrapped Hershey Kisses

Small pompom (nose)

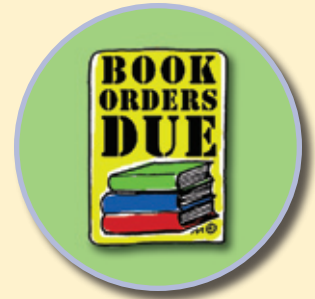
3-inch long black threads (whiskers)

Two googly eyes

1. Cut out one pink heart and two red mouse ears (half-circles).
2. Carefully remove the ribbon from one of the wrapped Hershey Kisses.
3. Glue the Hershey Kiss without the ribbon to the center of the pink heart.
4. Glue red mouse ears to the top of the heart.
5. Next, glue on the googly eyes, the pompom nose on top of the kiss, and the black thread whiskers.
6. Finally, glue the second Hershey Kiss with the ribbon still in it to the back of the heart, close to the bottom of the heart as illustrated.

Now you have a mouse kiss! Please avoid getting glue on the chocolate by using glue sparingly. Messy mice should only be looked at and not eaten.

Tiffany is a staff member of the Children's Department at Barnes & Noble, Ala Moana Center.



Save Money and Raise Funds for Read To Me!

By visiting the Read To Me website, www.readtomeintl.org and purchasing books through the amazon.com link, you can get great discounts on books and help Read To Me International raise funds for its projects.

For every book purchased through the Read To Me website, amazon.com will donate 5-10% of the purchase price to Read To Me International.

The site offers book lists and reviews for all types of children's literature and parenting resources.

Check it out!





Upcoming Events



Use GoodSearch.com and each time you search on this search engine powered by Yahoo! you'll help raise funds to support our mission. Go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Read To Me International Foundation as the charity you want to support. For every search you do, you'll be helping to donate a penny. Start searching on GoodSearch.com today!

Kahala Mall Toddler Time

Are you a stay-at-home parent or caregiver searching for something fun to do with your keiki? Kahala Mall's "Toddler Time" may be the answer.

Read To Me International is once again excited to participate in "Toddler Time," which offers activities such as music, reading, science, and other play activities.

Read To Me "Toddler Time" will engage children and parents with stories, songs and literacy-related craft activities on Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am, on the following dates:

- April 4, 2007
- June 6, 2007
- August 1, 2007
- October 3, 2007

Come join us! We hope to see you there.

Find Children's Programs

Visit www.FCPHawaii.com to view Hawaii's online directory of children's programs, products, and services on the web.



Sign up for our newsletter!

Would you or someone you know like to receive a copy of our quarterly newsletters?

If so, please email us at read@readtomeintl.org

with the subject line, "subscribe me to newsletter" and include your full name and mailing address.



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