

Parents Matter

Volume 1, No. 7



Fighting Illiteracy in our Own Communities

The old adage—students learn to read, then read to learn—reminds us that literacy remains at the heart of educating the children. And only through literacy will the next generation be prepared to learn and develop in ways necessary to tackle the jobs and challenges of the 21st century. So how can we get involved and help ensure that children from all demographics have access to books and opportunities to read?

Here are some ideas for you and your children to help fight illiteracy together in your own community

1. Host an afternoon tea party where parents and children bring several new or used books. Divide these books into gift bags and donate them to family shelters, after school providers, or preschools serving low income neighborhoods.
2. If you belong to a book club, have your club adopt a school or program. At each of your meetings, members can bring books to present each month to your chosen program.
3. Talk to your local library about establishing a 'donate each year' program where they take any extra books and gift them to local literacy organizations. You can also ask your library if they'll co-host a book drive where people can donate money or books that will be given to children in need. This can be a fun holiday activity.
4. Volunteer time to read to children at day care centers, family shelters, or other sites where children lack access to books and early education. This activity can be done with your own children, offering lessons about community service.
5. If your child's school participates in Scholastic Book Orders, ask families to purchase one extra book with each order to be delivered to students in low-income schools.

Maureen Breeze

*Maureen Breeze is a parent, academic coach, writer, and teacher. She is also the co-author of **Critical and Creative Thinking for Teenagers** and **Leadership for Teenagers**.*

Another Parent Tip From...

Spectrum Education, PO Box 30 818, Lower Hutt 5040, NZ
Phone: +64 4 528 9969, Email: info@spectrumeducation.com
Visit: www.spectrumeducation.com


spectrumeducation
INSPIRING TEACHERS AND STUDENTS