



creative community news

www.thrivingminds.org

january/february
issue 6

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Lyndale the Literary Lion Gets Students Wild about Reading at Reinhardt Elementary

The roar of laughter was in the air as “Lyndale the Literary Lion” took to the stage at Reinhardt Elementary in one afternoon last November. Lyndale, the creation of Joseph E. Jammer, an Outreach Specialist for the Dallas Public Library, was there to celebrate the reading goals achieved by 715 students who participated in the “Reading at Home” incentive program at Reinhardt.

The “Reading At Home” program takes place every six weeks, and encourages students to develop their literacy skills and, with Lyndale’s help, to see just how much fun reading can be. At the beginning of the school year, students in grades Pre-K through first were given a goal to read a total of 450 minutes at home every six weeks, and 900 minutes for students in grades two through five. For many, the efforts are fostering a lifelong love of reading say school administrators.

“The reason we are here is to have a good time doing what we love—and that is reading.” Lyndale told the group of students assembled. He enjoyed their full attention as he sang songs, told stories and read books.

For his part, Jammer began performing as “Lyndale” after working at local libraries and witnessing children’s apathy towards reading. He felt that if children could have fun with reading their attitudes would change. He created “Laugh and Learn with Lyndale” for children ages 4-10. The program has proven to be a great complement to Reinhardt’s efforts.



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The Art of Helping Others

On Dec. 4, fifteen high school students from Greenhill School, a pre-k-12 private school located in North Dallas, converged on the South Dallas Cultural Center to volunteer with Big Thought as part of their school’s service learning day.

They arrived at the center, eager to jump into the day’s activities. After an overview of the organization and a tour of the cultural center, the group then split in two, with half heading to Oak Cliff’s Hampton-Illinois library to assist in producing materials for the library’s “The Polar

Express”-themed Library Live! event.

Those that remained had the opportunity to interview local artists and artistic directors who are among the hundreds of individuals that make Thriving Minds programming possible in our local communities. After receiving a crash-course in journalism and photography, the students interviewed and photographed their subjects and, under a tight deadline, produced the profiles featured in this issue of the Creative Community Newsletter.

For the students, these projects were eye-opening experiences on the important role that creativity, imagination and art play in everyday living.

See inside page for these stories.

Thriving Minds Afterschool Program

**PROGRAMS START
JANUARY 27th
ENROLL TODAY!**

David G. Burnet Ele.
972-794-3000

Whitney Young Ele.
972-749-2000

Leonides G. Cigarroa Ele.
972-502-2900

C.A. Tatum Jr. Ele.
972-502-2000

Herbert Marcus Ele.
972-794-2900

Lee McShan Ele.
972-502-6052

Mark Twain Ele.
972-749-3000

S.S. Conner Ele.
972-749-8200

John W. Carpenter Ele.
972-794-6000

Frank Guzick Ele.
972-502-3900

Birdie Alexander Ele.
972-749-3100

L.V. Stockard MS
972-794-5700

Roger Q Mills Ele.
972-925-7500

E.H. Cary MS
972-502-7600

Edward Titche Ele.
972-794-2100

J. L. Long MS
972-502-4700

W.W. Bushman Ele.
972-749-1800

Robert T. Hill MS
972-502-5700

John Ireland Ele.
972-749-4900

Comstock MS
972-794-1300

