



77 Boone Hills Dr. ■ St. Peters, MO 63376

636-441-2300
Fax 636-441-3132

foundation@stchlibrary.org
www.stchlibraryfoundation.org

Contact: Kristin Williams
77 Boone Hills Dr, St. Peters, MO 63376
kwilliams@stchlibrary.org
636-441-2300, x1582

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For Immediate Release

Library Foundation's Imagine Campaign Reaches Out to St Charles District's New Preschool Program

(St Peters, MO – December 2, 2010) Local preschool students in the City of St. Charles School District will be better prepared for reading success after a visit from the St. Charles City-County Library Foundation. On Friday, December 3rd, Foundation members will deliver “Early Literacy Kits” to preschool students in the district’s Coverdell and Harris Elementary Schools and talk to them about the fun and importance of reading.

“The Library Foundation wants to help children succeed. We’ll read them a story and tell them about all that our libraries have to offer. Children who are read to three or more times per week do much better in later development than children who don’t receive this stimulation. Our Literacy Kits will provide the first steps to reading success for these families,” said Kristin Williams, Planning and Development Coordinator for the St. Charles City-County Library District.

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can do so. The Library Foundation is working to help parents and caregivers assist children in building the critical skills that allow them to learn to read, reach higher educational attainment and ultimately gain better employment as an adult. This goal complements the work of the City of St. Charles School District’s new preschool program.

Dr. Danielle Tormala, Associate Superintendent for the City of St. Charles School District states, “Developing literacy skills and fostering the love of reading at an early age are critical to a child’s success later not only in school, but also in life. I am very thankful to the St. Charles City-County Library Foundation for their generous donation to our preschool students and families. Community partnerships such as this enrich the experiences of our students and expand upon the work that we do every day in our classrooms.” Dr. Tormala is also a board member with the Library Foundation.

The St. Charles City-County Library Foundation’s Early Literacy Kit program, funded by the Foundation’s “Imagine Campaign” and a grant from Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation, provides three developmentally appropriate books geared toward pre-readers, as well as instructions and resources for parents and caregivers to assist children in building the skills of phonological and print awareness, narrative skills, vocabulary, print motivation, and letter knowledge.

For additional details or to make a donation to the Imagine Campaign, visit the Library Foundation online at www.stchlibraryfoundation.org, e-mail foundation@stchlibrary.org or call 636-441-2300.

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