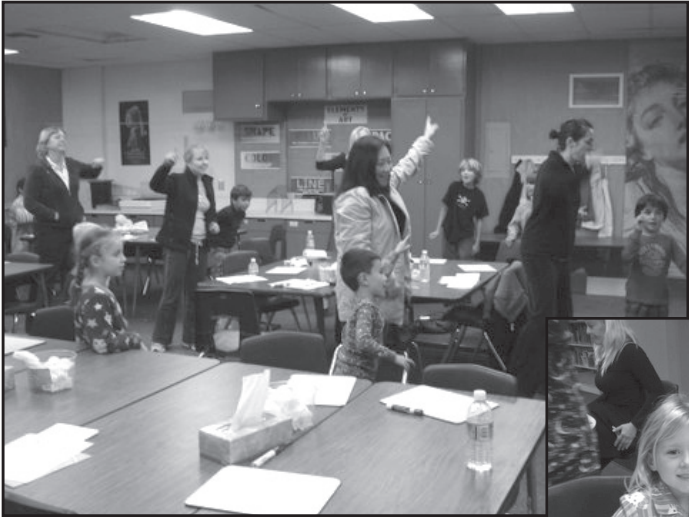


# Student's forum

## Night under the Stars Fosters Love of Reading



Everybody gets into the act.



Kayla and Sherry Schmit

By Lisa Haun

On the evening of Thursday, November 5, approximately 40 first graders could be found at Richmond Street School in their pajamas. It was not a giant slumber party, rather a Night Under the Stars for Family Reading Night. First grade teachers, Mrs. Loye, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Lister, and Ms. Maisonet, planned an interactive, fun-filled night for students and their parents. The goal was to promote the love of literacy as well as give parents helpful suggestions to take home.

All students were treated to the story *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, theatrically read by first grade teacher, Mrs. Pickett, making a special guest appearance from her maternity leave. At the same time, the parents were ushered into the computer lab to hear about helpful resources and websites presented by Ms. Maisonet (see links below). All in attendance were also given the free publication “Shining Stars – First Graders Learn to Read” published by The National Institute of Literacy. The small booklet provides parents with ways to help their first grade children learn to read; it includes activities parents can use to build reading skills and a checklist of developmental skills parents can apply to their children. It is also free to download at: <http://www.nifl.gov/publications/publications.html>.

The well-organized event had families rotating to three different stations: Word Play, Reading Comprehension, and Writing. The first grade teaching team planned out numerous hands-on activities that had students and parents working and learning alongside one

another. Mrs. Haun, Richmond’s Reading Specialist, had the pleasure of floating around to support and snap pictures. She enthusiastically shared, “Smiles were abundant as the families enjoyed a very special evening together. It was wonderful having such a great turn out because every family took away something valuable to utilize regardless of reading level or ability. The parents seemed grateful to have new tools to try and the kids loved the engaging activities presented by their energetic teachers (all dressed in matching jammies). I applaud them for a fabulous evening of literacy!”

Parents also raved about the event on the evaluations forms filled out at the conclusion of the event. “Loved the time with my child to see him excited about reading and writing. It was fun to have that one-on-one time!” “It was casual, cozy, and informative. My kid and I got creative and it was easy and fun! Lots of new ideas. Out of the box!” “I thought you covered a wide range of concepts and ideas. I liked that additional resources were identified.” “It gives me new ideas and reminds me of old ones that I have forgotten to do. It re-energizes me to ask more questions when I’m reading to my child and play more while learning.”

Here are the links for some of the resources given:

<http://richmondfirstgrade.weebly.com/family-reading-night.html>

[http://elsegundousd.com/richmond\\_school/summer\\_learning/summer-learning.htm](http://elsegundousd.com/richmond_school/summer_learning/summer-learning.htm)

**This Week’s Question:**  
*Where are the best local surf spots?*

**Last Week’s Question:**  
*Who is your favorite musician?*

Greenday because their lyrics are relatable and Miley Cyrus because she has really upbeat music.      Taylor Swift because her lyrics has a message for all of us girls to relate.      D.A.

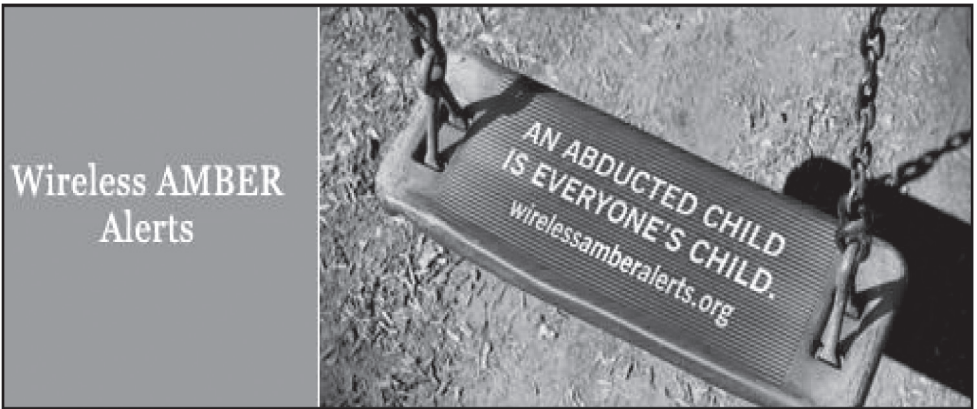
A.W.      Lady Gaga because her image is edgy and one of a kind. She has interesting music videos.      I like Adam Lambert because he dances and sings at the same time.      L.R.

Send all submissions to  
**students@heraldpublications.com**

### SKETCHERS DONATES TO ESEF



SKECHERS President Michael Greenberg presents checks for funds raised in the recent Pier to Pier Friendship Walk to local school foundations including: MBEF, PEF, HBEF and ESEF. From left: Rabbi Yossi Mintz, ESEF’s Jayne Pimlott, CFO and Richard Lundquist Board Chairman, and (right) SKECHERS President Michael Greenberg. Photo provided by Dinah Erasmus.



open  
houses

■ Saturday, December 12  
10:00am-12:00pm

■ Saturday, January 9 (2010)  
10:00am-12:00pm

■ Thursday, January 21 (2010)  
6:30-8:00pm

Reservations requested.  
Check in begins 15 minutes  
prior to program.

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