

# Richmond Street Students Reap Rewards of Reading



Most Improved Readers.

By Jack Plotkin

How do Richmond Street Elementary students enjoy their green eggs and ham? At the school's annual April Read-a-thon in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America Day, they ate them *in the file, any style, fried and boiled, and poached and broiled*. The kinder through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students enjoyed the treat after reading for a combined total of 195,905 minutes.

"Since this is the first year we've focused on minutes instead of books. We thought 100,000 was a pretty lofty goal," commented Richmond Street reading specialist Lisa Haun, who coordinated the event. "But they far surpassed that." The young readers received a boost by including the pre-kindergarten, or TEDDE class, who began to hone their emerging reading skills.

As students reaped the rewards of their reading, filling up with green eggs and fresh

popcorn (in lieu of ham), the Cat in the Hat himself pranced around congratulating the students. "Hey, that's Ms. Haun!" some students shrieked.

Minutes after the cat's exit, Ms. Haun mysteriously reappeared to welcome parents to the assembly honoring the students efforts and recognizing the classrooms with the most minutes, and the students earning "Most Improved Reader" (students and classes named below).

Immediately following, students listened in awe to storyteller Michael McCarty who wowed them with his animated tale, and encouraged them to keep up their reading. Ms. Haun expressed her gratitude to Mr. McCarty, as well as to local businesses who provided incentives for students: among them, 209 Cold Stone ice cream treats and

See Reading, page 20

## Dear Carol

Dear Carol,

I have been sick for a long time. My friends have been a great support to me and my family. They take me to doctors' appointments, bring food, send good wishes and have really made this whole experience so much better than it could have been. I'm still not well but, while I can, I want to do something to thank them. We don't have a lot of money and I don't have a lot of energy to throw a thank you party. How can I show my friends how much I appreciate their support?

Grateful Grace

Dear Grace,

Your friends don't need a party; they understand your situation and are helping you out of love and appreciation for who you are. You have probably done much to help others in the past. If you can, write a personal note of gratitude to each person, ask a family member for help if writing is a strain for you. Tell each one specifically what they did that you appreciate and name some special qualities they may have like a warm smile, gentle way, or sense of humor. A personal note of appreciation is a treasure that may be cherished long after the memory of a party would have faded.

Dear Carol,

I am so upset. Our credit card company raised our interest rate 50% and they lowered our credit limit. We have never been late on a payment and always pay at least the

minimum. It is just not fair, we've followed their rules for years and now they treat us like we are debtors. How can I get back at them for treating us this way?

Credit Cruncher

Dear Credit Cruncher,

The best way to get back at the company is to pay off your balance. If the balance due is paid each month you will not have to pay any interest at all. You don't want to be treated like a debtor but that is what you are. You bought things you could not pay for, the money was borrowed from the credit card company and now you are paying the company for covering your debts. Get back at them by not using that credit card or any card until there is no longer any balance due. Put the cards away in a safe place. Use them only in an emergency, like getting the car fixed so you can get to work. Pay cash for everything, keep the receipts for a month and see where you have spent your money. You may be surprised at the unnecessary items you have bought. Make a commitment to pay as much over the minimum you can each month and enjoy the sight of your outstanding balance going down. Eventually you will be debt free and no longer at the mercy of those who make and change the rules. You will be in control.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail.com. Carol is a Life Coach available for private consultation in person or on the phone. •

## Track

from page 7

Van Biezen , Garrett Lopez Dominetta and up-and-comer Peter Novakovic to improvements for each. Lopez Dominetta led in the longer distances.


The middle distance girls were prompted

by Nicole Tamura in the 1600m with MacKenzie Lee and Molly McCue in the 2-mile. Jenna Rich was a consistent performer from 400m-1600m.


A young high jump group led by Clark Elmen , Mahmood Josh Clark, Evan Azcuna and Lane Krejcik excelled and should do some major damage in the next few years. Excellent jump prospects on the girls' side of the bar include: Amy Reaser, Ali Fernandez, Meghan Weaver and the ever-animated Evie Lavoie .

It is tough to resist forecasting. Multi-event specialist and school record holder Alison Reaser will be back for her senior year. She is a scary sight for the opposition from 100 through 800 meters including the hurdles events plus the long jump, triple and even the high jump. There is a great base of motivated and talented young track and field athletes to compliment her. And, adding a state-of-the art facility (already voted for) for this group to utilize should produce even more....Citius, Altius and Fortius. Go Eagles! •





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# Metro Briefs

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**Metro Adding 41 Buses For Express Lane Project**

Forty-one compressed natural gas buses are being purchased by Metro for its ExpressLanes demonstration project aimed at maximizing freeway capacity. Next year the buses will provide additional transit alternatives on the carpool lanes along the I-10 (El Monte Bypass) and I-110 (Harbor Freeway Transitway) corridors.

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**(310) 524-2728**