The VAC Literacy Program kicked off the week of September 29th! We are so excited to have 195 University of Arkansas student volunteers involved in the Fayetteville community.

This semester, the program has expanded to working at five elementary schools: Asbell Elementary, Holcomb Elementary, Leverett Elementary, Owl Creek Elementary, and Washington Elementary.

The first few weeks of the program have been very successful! The volunteers have been doing a great job of abiding by the dress code and safety rules. We have also had great attendance. Keep it up volunteers!

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey sent out last week! We had 156 volunteers complete the survey— a record! We are so appreciative of your feedback, thank you!

Special points of interest:

* No program next week for Fall Break!
* Keep doing a great job!
* Log your volunteer hours

Zaxby’s Fundraiser

This past Tuesday, October 7th, a fundraiser was held at the Zaxby’s on Martin Luther King Blvd from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Committee members collected receipts, and at the end of the night, ten percent of the money spent was donated to the program. We even had a lot of receipts turned in from people who were there but were not with the program. People loved hearing about our mission and were happy to help raise money for us!

This semester with the VAC Literacy Program

Thanks for everyone who came and ate, we raised $60.70, which will go towards hosting our book fair and volunteer appreciation during the last week of the program in December!

ASG President Daniel McFarland at the Zaxby’s fundraiser Tuesday night. Thanks for coming out, Daniel!
Lead Activities

This semester, we are implementing a new strategy at each school site to promote building relationships between the U of A volunteers and their elementary school buddies. Each week, the Lead Mentors will be leading a fun activity that will involve the entire group.

Our Curriculum Coordinator, Reagan Fix, has been busy researching and designing these activities, and we are excited to see how both our volunteers and the elementary students like them!

Three weeks worth of activities have been given out so far, but the next few weeks will be released soon!

The first activities have been focusing on team building and getting to know the entire cohort while having fun with the elementary student. As the semester progresses, these activities will strive to give volunteers resources to help their reading buddies with their individual literacy goals.

If you have any ideas for activities you believe would be successful, she would love to hear your input. Please email vaclit@uark.edu with your plan!

Committee Member Spotlight

Ainsley Huffman is serving as the 2014-2015 Literacy Program Chair.

Ainsley is a senior from Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and is majoring in kinesiology. She is working on a research project in the Human Performance Lab on campus. Besides being an active member of the VAC Board, she is a member of Gamma Beta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Delta, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, while also volunteering weekly off-campus at the Circle of Life Hospice. She says she loves volunteering “because I love making a difference in the community”.

Nicole Howard is a junior from Overland Park, Kansas, who is serving as the 2014-2015 Logistics Coordinator.

She is working on her degree in accounting with a Minor in Spanish. She is active on campus through her involvements in Kappa Delta Sorority and the Honors College and serves as an Honors College Ambassador. She says “the reason I love to volunteer because it is not what you give, but what you get in return. It is a great feeling to help others in need within our community.”

Book Fair

At the end of the semester, we will be hosting a book fair at each of the school sites.

Be sure to keep track of your elementary student’s reading each week in their notecards - the number of stickers they accumulate over the entire semester will go towards the number of books and other goodies they receive!

Be on the lookout for more information!

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at: vaclit@uark.edu