



Read On Year End Report to Supporters June 2009 (amended 11/09)

The entire Read On Board extends a heartfelt thank you to all our supporters for attending our lecture series and workshops and for helping Read On spread awareness about the needs of struggling readers and the effective research-based teaching interventions that must be implemented to ensure that virtually every student can learn to read, spell and write at proficient levels. Your letters to state and local representatives and to the school district have made a difference and because of you, positive change is already beginning to happen in Washington.

Since founding Read On in April of 2008, we have made huge strides in raising awareness about the latest research on how to help struggling readers. The following are some of our key achievements:

- **Read On and its supporters were instrumental in the historic passage of Senate Bill 6016.** The bill unanimously acknowledges the effectiveness of the screening and teaching methodologies employed in the Dyslexia Pilot Program. This bill “intends to sustain the work of the dyslexia pilot projects and expand the implementation to a level of statewide support.” Read On built a strong relationship with our district legislator, Reuven Carlyle, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get this bill passed. Read On and its supporters lobbied state legislative leaders through a successful letter writing campaign.
- **Read On has developed relationships with key individuals and organizations including:** Dan Coles, Director, Literacy, Seattle Public Schools; Lisa Moore, President, Successful Schools in Action; Patrick D’Amelio, President and CEO of The Alliance for Education; Lisa MacFarlene, League of Education Voters; Read On has also begun to develop contacts with Bonnie Meyer, President, Washington Branch International Dyslexia Association (WABIDA).

- **Read On provided several scholarships for teachers and tutors in various researched based, systematic, explicit and multi-sensory methods that are effective for struggling readers.**
- **Read On underwrote a significant portion of the cost of substitute teachers enabling 5 Lawton Elementary staff members to attend the Annual International Dyslexia Association meeting in Seattle, October 2008.**
- **Read On created a monthly lecture series for educators and parents to inform them about the various issues facing struggling readers and their families and teachers.** Many parents and educators throughout Washington attended. Read On has received enormous positive feedback regarding these events. Parents and educators have requested more opportunities to meet with experts and learn about how to help their children and students. This series is free and open to the public.
- **Read On created “teacher packets” and distributed them to the entire Lawton teaching community and to several others beyond Lawton’s boundaries, providing educators with the latest research on how to identify and help struggling readers.** Read On also created a resource library available to the entire Lawton Community.
- **Read On created and maintains a website, www.readonforkids.org, with resources, articles and announcements for parents and educators who want to learn more about struggling readers.** Our thanks to the generous ongoing assistance and expertise of North Beach Elementary parent, Ned Hamzic, of SH Web Design for the development and maintenance of the Read On website and to Lawton parent and graphic designer, Marla Master for designing the Read On and Soar logos and for her ongoing support and advice in all design matters.
- **This summer Read On launched Soar, a support group for children with dyslexia, in conjunction with a well respected educational psychologist and dyslexia specialist based in Seattle.** Check our website for upcoming Soar events.

The greatest rewards of the past year have been the personal impact that awareness and intervention have brought to the children who struggle to learn to read, spell and write. It has been remarkable to hear reports from families of the transformation many have already seen in their the children as they begin to unlock the reading code. Unfortunately, much more work lies ahead to ensure that Washington’s students receive effective intervention. Once again, thank you for supporting Read On in our efforts to put the research on struggling readers to work for Washington’s children.

