



- *Student, teacher, & staff participation in a recreational read-a-thon*
- *Program management handled by volunteer parents and community members*
- *Collaborative partnerships with community businesses and civic organizations*

## Results



- *Active participants increased recreational reading by 31% and improved in reading comprehension and fluency as demonstrated by gains in reading achievement on a nationally standardized text.*
- *General attitude toward books and reading improved with significant changes in behavior for reluctant readers.*
- *Parental involvement in literacy behaviors at home increased as did volunteerism at the school.*
- *Schools created a culture of literacy that extended into home and community.*

## The Program

It is well known that children who read more, read better. Research shows a positive relationship between free reading and gains in reading achievement. Yet today, many children struggle to read—or don't read even when they have the skills. At the same time, many parents remain uninvolved in their child's education. Books and Beyond is a research-based, comprehensive recreational reading program which reverses these trends by increasing the opportunities for recreational reading and encouraging parental involvement. The overarching goal is to increase recreational reading for students of all achievement levels while improving attitudes towards books and reading. The program's design purposefully integrates the cognitive, motivational, and social aspects of reading and incorporates the role a student's self-perceived competence plays in getting him/her to read. The classroom teacher and other school staff act as reading role models by participating in the program along with the students.

Because success begins at home, Books and Beyond focuses on parents and other caregivers as essential links in establishing literacy behaviors. The program provides opportunities for parents to act as partners in the read-a-thon, volunteer in the school, and support classroom instruction. Books and Beyond builds home literacy behaviors by supporting parent activities such as shared reading, reading aloud, visiting the library, moderating television viewing, and promoting the value of reading at home. Strategies for success are provided for ESL and non-literate families, and special contracts help struggling readers achieve success. Books and Beyond can be used in diverse learning settings including regular school-year, summer school, and before- and after-school programs. Additionally, it can be run school-wide, by grade level, or in individual classrooms. Reading can take place in any language, and program materials are translated into Spanish.

## Professional Development

One-day training workshops are held for school teams (3-5 people) and can be presented to multiple sites at the same time. Teams consist of lead teachers, reading specialists, library/media center teachers, Title I coordinators, administrators, and parents. The program manual serves as a guide for the training. Each team creates an individual Action Plan to adapt the program to the needs of their school, students, and parents. Follow-up technical assistance is on-going by phone, mail, and e-mail.

## Costs & Funding Options

Implementation costs require the purchase of a program manual (\$50) as well as eight student incentives. Incentives can be purchased from the project, duplicated from the program manual, created by the school, or donated by community members/businesses. Cost per student is roughly \$2.60 - \$3.25 depending on the incentives selected. Additional expense includes duplication costs. Training fees include the cost of travel and lodging where applicable plus a \$350 honorarium. Fees can be shared by multiple sites.

## Learning Standards

**English Language Arts:** 1) read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding; 4) read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

## Contact

Ann Collins  
Project Coordinator  
Books and Beyond  
309 North Rios Avenue  
Solana Beach, CA 92075  
858-755-3823  
Fax: 858-755-0449  
E-mail: [acollins@sbsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:acollins@sbsd.k12.ca.us)  
Website: [www.booksandbeyond.org](http://www.booksandbeyond.org)