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My tutor is my friend. She not only helps me understand English and math but we can talk about anything. She made me believe that I can succeed in anything I really wish to accomplish.

-- Beatrice, Noonan Business Academy Student

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Our Programs

Power Lunch

Power Lunch sparks enthusiasm for reading in first through third graders by matching students with a volunteer reading mentor from participating corporations in the Boston area.

Power Lunch mentors are asked to commit either one hour per week during a student's lunch break for the duration of the school year or to visit their student bi-weekly by alternating with a co-worker. Ideally, students will work with the same mentor(s) over three years.

Boston Partners in Education takes care of all management aspects of the program and makes the involvement of our corporate partners stress-free. Mentors receive an orientation at their office prior to volunteering that provides them information about reading aloud, what makes a good mentor, and the Boston Public Schools.

Corporate partners provide an annual donation of \$275 per volunteer to help offset the costs of the program.

For more information or to sign up for Power Lunch, please contact:

Todd Wackerman

twackerman@bostonpartners.org

617.451.6145.

The Big Cheese Reads

The Big Cheese Reads Initiative, a sponsorship program linked to our annual Gala, connects business and community leaders with middle-school students in order to emphasize the important link between literacy and career success. Since its inception in 2004, nearly 150 corporate and community leaders have visited classes to support the initiative. "Big Cheeses" have included Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Keith Lockhart, Ron Logue, Mayor Thomas Menino, Governor Deval Patrick, and Liz Walker.

"Big Cheeses" visit a middle school classroom at least once during the school year to read a short selection aloud to the class, give a brief personal account of the ways reading and learning have impacted their lives and career achievements, and respond to questions from the students. A Big Cheese Reader's time commitment is 45 minutes to one hour in the school, plus the time that it takes to travel to and from the school.

Sponsorship helps us continue to provide quality educational assistance and positive adult role models to our city's school children by matching them with trained volunteer academic mentors.

(more)

A is for Academics!

BOSTON PARTNERS
IN EDUCATION

www.bostonpartners.org

For more information on becoming or sponsoring a Big Cheese Reader, please contact:

Karen L. Tefft
ktefft@bostonpartners.org
617.451.6145

School Volunteer Program

Boston Partners in Education matches struggling K-12 students in the Boston Public Schools with volunteer academic mentors for the school year. The students are nominated by their teachers as being in need of support.

Teachers know which of their students will benefit most from extra one-on-one and small group attention. Academic mentors work with students in reading, writing, and math, helping them to improve their grades and to achieve their goals on standardized tests such as the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS).

In addition to helping students build academic proficiency and test-taking skills, mentors help students improve their social and study skills, verbal/speaking skills, self-confidence, and ability to work with other students.

Individuals interested in becoming academic mentors must complete an online registration form and be interviewed, trained and screened according to the guidelines created by Boston Partners in Education for the Boston Public Schools. Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) background checks must also be conducted annually for all volunteers.

For more information, please contact:

Hillary Chazen
hillary_chazen@bostonpartners.org
Barbara Harris
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617.451.6145

Math Rules!

Math Rules! targets third through fifth grade students who are struggling in math. Small groups of students are matched with a math mentor who works with them during math class. Math mentors work under the teacher's direction and motivate students to strengthen their math performance.

Math mentors meet with their students one to two hours each week over the academic year and are encouraged to return and mentor their students for up to three years. Math Rules! provides a way for students to build solid math skills at a young age so that they will succeed in the subject as it becomes more difficult. At the same time, they develop greater self-confidence and really begin to love the subject of math.

Within the Boston Public Schools, there are comparatively few large-scale efforts devoted exclusively to building math skills, and most of these services take place after school. Noted math educator and author Greg Tang stresses the importance of intervening to teach strategic thinking in math from second grade onward.

For more information about Math Rules, please contact:

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