



## SAND Elementary School

1750 Main Street

Hartford, CT 06120

Telephone (860) 695-5040 Fax (860) 722-8377

Email: [cgreen@hartfordschools.org](mailto:cgreen@hartfordschools.org)

**Robert Henry**

*Superintendent of Schools*

**Cecilia J. Green**

*Acting Principal*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 11, 2004

**CONTACT:** Dr. Beryl Irene Bailey, Literacy Facilitator

[bbailey@hartfordschools.org](mailto:bbailey@hartfordschools.org)

5-5095

Mrs. Cecilia J. Green, Acting Principal

(860) 695-5040

### **PARENT LITERACY CONFERENCE ON MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AT SAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**30 FIRST THROUGH THIRD GRADE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES  
WILL EACH RECEIVE 20-25 NEW BOOKS FOR FAMILY LIBRARIES**

Through the CT READS Tutorial Assistance Grant, funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, SAND has provided after school tutorial help in the areas of reading and language for 30 of the lowest performing first through third grade students for the school years 2002-2004.

The ***Parent Literacy Conference, Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon***, is a culminating event, highlighting the achievements of the students and providing parents with family friendly literacy activities to help their children at home. A focus of the conference will be ***increasing family reading by building family libraries***. Each student and their family will receive 20-25 brand-new books, a homework bin, pencils, stickers, and magnetic alphabet letters to reinforce spelling skills. Parents will participate in workshops to empower them to conduct read alouds at home, build their children's vocabulary, monitor their children's fluency skills and utilize questioning strategies to ensure reading comprehension. They will also receive activities that accompany their portable literacy centers to reinforce vocabulary development.

The research on vocabulary development yields ***alarming data that warrants family intervention***. By the age of 4, a child living in a family on welfare has been exposed to 13 million words, compared to the same age child in a working class family who has been exposed to 26 million words and a child from a professional family who has been exposed to 45 million words (Hart & Risley, 1995). The research also shows that how much and what you read matters. ***If a child reads at least 13 minutes a day, she can increase her vocabulary by 601,000 words per year***. The children in our tutorial program read independently, for at least 60 minutes per week. Additionally, they are provided explicit, small-group phonemic awareness instruction, daily oral practice with decodable texts and rich, and interesting children's literature for independent reading, and explicit small-group or individualized instruction in active reading and comprehension strategies.

The CT READS Tutorial Assistance program at SAND is aligned with the Hartford Public Schools' literacy initiatives and includes the components of a comprehensive reading program, outlined in Connecticut's Blueprint for Reading Achievement, exposure to children's literature, oral language development, explicit teaching of comprehension, word identification skills, spelling and writing and on-going assessment as it relates to instruction.

---

**WHERE:**           **SAND Elementary School**  
1750 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120

**SCHEDULE:**   Registration & Welcome 9:00 a.m.  
Family Breakfast: 9:30 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.  
Workshop I: 10:20 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.  
Workshop II: 11:05 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.  
Closing Ceremony: 11:50 a.m.- 12:00 noon  
Family Lunch: 12:00 noon- 12:30 p.m.