

mass reads & succeeds!



This series is powered by Mass Literacy, a nonprofit organization supporting literacy education throughout Massachusetts. We provide communities across the state with important services and tools to help build a fully literate population.



SIX OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS SELECTED AS MASS LITERACY CHAMPIONS

MASS LITERACY is thrilled to announce the recipients of our 2016 Mass Literacy Champions awards. The program publicly recognizes and rewards Massachusetts educators who have shown exceptional commitment and results through their work in literacy education.

Each Mass Literacy Champion will receive a \$1000 grant to complete an

innovative literacy project as well as a professionally produced video to promote the work of their organization.

Seventy-six Mass Literacy Champions have been recognized since 2003, and together they represent the diverse literacy community that makes Massachusetts a national leader in education.

Meet our 2016 Mass Literacy Champions:



L-R: Dennis Quinn, Yamaris Rivera, Pasha Black, Gerri Guyote, Sharon Shaloo, Jeantilus Gedeus. Boston Herald Staff Photo by Chitose Suzuki.

PESHA BLACK, Director of Holyoke Community College's Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center and Springfield Adult Learning Center ESOL Program

Grant project: Black will train immigrant youth and adult learners in interpretation. Her project will help students turn their linguistic and cultural capital into a marketable skill with a sustainable wage.

JEANTILUS GEDEUS, ESOL Teacher at The Immigrant Learning Center in Malden

Grant project: Gedeus will write, record and distribute songs that he uses to teach literacy to adult learners who have no or low literacy skills. The music will be available to educators free of charge so it can be used in classrooms across the state.

GERRI GUYOTE, Assistant Director of the Peabody Institute Library in Peabody

Grant project: Guyote will expand her English Conversation Circles program, which matches adults working to improve their conversation skills with trained volunteers, to include additional Adult Education programming.

DENNIS QUINN, Director of Mentoring Programs at Reader to Reader in Amherst

Grant project: Quinn will implement the organization's Read, Think, Share mentoring program in a new classroom serving 30 students. The web-based initiative partners at-risk middle and high school students with college student mentors to improve reading skills.

YAMARIS RIVERA, Family Access and Engagement Coordinator at the Lawrence School in Holyoke

Grant project: Rivera will create a rotating take-home backpack program where elementary school students will borrow backpacks containing books and corresponding activities. Students will complete the activities with their families to increase literacy skills.

SHARON SHALOO, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Center for the Book in Boston

Grant project: Shaloo will develop a reading and discussion guide with supporting STEAM activities for the children's book, "Henry Hikes to Fitchburg" by D.B. Johnson, and distribute it to Massachusetts libraries for reading promotion and family literacy projects.

St. Mary's students raise money for literacy

BY KRISTEN GIDDINGS

While elementary school students across the country build their own literacy skills, students from St. Mary of the Annunciation School in Melrose worked to help students throughout their community learn.

The Community Service Club, a volunteer after school enrichment program for third and fourth graders, donated nearly \$1,200 to Mass Literacy, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting literacy education throughout Massachusetts. The students raised the funds through a Read-A-Thon, where each student received pledge dollars for every hour they read or completed a literacy activity.

Third grader Oliver Swart recognized the importance of not only growing his own literacy skills, but he learned the value of helping others read as well, "It made me feel great that we were raising money for other people in need and we are also

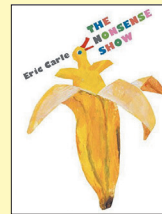
learning at the same time."

For the two third-grade teachers at St. Mary's who volunteer to run the club, Joanna Painchaud and Melissa Conneely, one of the most important values they instill in their students is fostering a sense of community, and just how far their community can reach.

"We do a lot for our local community, with the food pantry and the assisted lived home," said Conneely. "But we found it important that when we talk about community service, to have the students realize that our community expands wider than just Melrose."

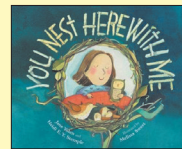


Great summer reads by Massachusetts authors and illustrators



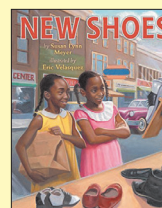
"The Nonsense Show" by Eric Carle

This picture book is an inventive look at the unexpected things around us, encouraging readers to revel in the amazing things that can happen when imagination is your guide.



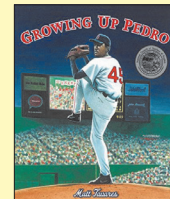
"You Nest Here With Me" by Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple

Giving us a new way to think about bedtime rituals, this book looks at the nesting habits of 14 birds, telling their stories in gentle rhymes that will soothe the young ones at bedtime.



"New Shoes" by Susan Lynn Meyer

New Shoes takes place during segregation in the 1950s and demonstrates the resilience of two girls who start a "new" used shoe store so that "anyone who walks in the door can try on all the shoes they want."



"Growing Up Pedro" by Matt Tavares

This lively and well-told biography of Pedro Martinez is a terrific introduction to the career of one of baseball's greatest pitchers.



"Ling & Ting Together in all Weather" by Grace Lin

In her latest installment in the adventures of twins Ling and Ting, Grace Lin presents an engaging early reader about the various seasons and how two energetic girls can have fun year round.

By Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of Massachusetts Center for the Book and 2016 Mass Literacy Champion.

Read the full story at MassLiteracy.org/Blog

Find literacy news, events and resources at MassLiteracy.org