

Leaders for Readers Quarterly

*...because every child
needs a book.*



Back to School, 2015

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Aug. 18,
2015 | First day of 2015-16 book distribution at 3933 North Mt. View Avenue location. |
| Sept. 30,
2015 | Lease expires, tentative date of move. Check www.IECBP.org for updates. |
| Nov. 2,
2015 | 5:30 pm – Fall Open House – A Harvest of Books |
| Dec. 18,
2015 –
Jan. 8,
2016 | SBCUSD closed for winter break. |



From the Chairwoman's Desk

We are so excited about the year ahead! We have been busy receiving and processing books all summer in anticipation of the new school year. Shortly, teachers will begin receiving their invitations to "shop" at our Children's Book Project site. We love seeing pictures of children with their new books and reading their incredible thank you notes.

Our plan is to open at our existing site on August 18th. Teachers and principals will receive email invitations two weeks before their scheduled visit date. We will also be following up throughout the year via email. Our goal is to see every teacher in the SBCUSD at least twice this year. On November 2nd we will be hosting an open house. More information is to come.

We are grateful for your support and involvement with the IECBP. There are many ways to get involved with us, donate books, volunteer, host a book drive, and make donations of funds *because every child needs a book.*

-Bernice Lowenstein



We're Moving!

We will be relocating during the week of October 1st.
Please check our website for updates about the move.



Learning How to Fly

Recapping our first 18 Months

In December, of 2013 a committee of community and education leaders met in San Bernardino to plan the founding of the Inland Empire Children's Book Project. In the following months, dedicated volunteers and board members worked to make those plans a reality. We developed our mission statement, incorporated, created bylaws, elected board officers, applied for and were granted tax-exempt status, developed our logo, built relationships with partners, created a web and social media

presence, and secured a physical location for the 2014-15 school year. In September of 2014 we moved into the portable classroom located on the corner of North Mt. View and Ralston Avenues in a parking lot shared with a church. Volunteers, painted, set up book shelves and tables, developed a book sorting protocol, and sorted, sorted and sorted some more. We divided the space in color-coded rooms focused on age groups: pre-K, elementary, and secondary grades.

We started receiving books almost immediately. Books came from many

sources including parents, teachers, libraries, Rotary clubs, nonprofits and businesses. By the end of June, 2015 we had collected 28,775 books. Not all books were appropriate for children. 5,064 books were distributed to the Jerry L. Pettis VA Medical Center, the Salvation Army and the California Retired Teachers Association, San Bernardino Chapter.

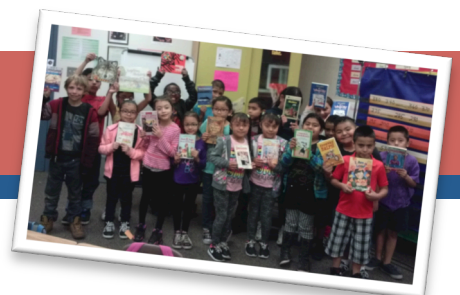
In our start-up year we focused on providing books to teachers in the San Bernardino City Unified School District. By providing books to children via their teachers we were

I got my first book. Now I need a bookcase!

and still are confident that the students receive books that are developmentally appropriate. When left to their own devices, children make choices based on color, animation, or other reasons. Teachers know their students and are best able to provide the right book for them to take home and keep. Due to a limited supply of books, teachers were welcome to

visit on an invitation-only basis (we will continue will this system in the 2015-16 school year).

On February 3, 2015 we opened our doors. Distribution was slow in the beginning so we stepped up our outreach to teachers in addition to administrative staff. Between our grand opening and June 30, 2015 we distributed 9,417 books to SBCUSD teachers. The feedback we received



from teachers was outstanding. The children were so happy to have books of their very own. One student, after receiving his first book, asked his mother for a bookcase for what was the start of his new book collection.



San Bernardino County Medical Association Honors IECBP

On June 17, 2015 the San Bernardino County Medical Association held their annual Installation, Awards & Recognition Dinner where Dr. Marti Baum, member of the IECBP Advisory Board, was installed as president. There were children's books and information about the IECBP at every table. Guests learned about the Book Project & wrote notes of praise on bookmarks to be given to young readers in the SBCUSD. We are very grateful for the support & generosity of Dr. Baum and the members of the SBCMA.



We need your help!

The new school year has started and we will be opening our doors to teachers on August 18th. We need volunteers to work at the IECBP Book Site in receiving and repair, sorting, shelving and customer service. For more info please visit our website, www.IECBP.org

The Importance of Literacy: Why We Do What We Do

If you grew up in a middle or upper class family, you undoubtedly had books in your home. How many of us remember reading or being read to as a child and, later in life, reading to our children, grandchildren or nieces and nephews? In many homes, reading to our children the favorite books of our childhood is a rite of passage with favorites being read over and over again. The story is different, however, in low-income families. According to First Book, *in some of the lowest-income neighborhoods in the country there is only one book available for every 300 children.*

Reading to children must start early because it is critical to children's receptive and expressive language skills development. In their groundbreaking study titled, "The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3" Betty Hart and Todd Risley concluded that "children living in poverty hear fewer than a third of the words heard by children from higher-income families has significant implications in the long run. When extrapolated to the words heard by a child within the first four years of their life these results reveal a 30 million-word difference. That is, a child from a high-income family will experience 30 million more words within the first four years of life than a child from a low-income family. This gap does nothing but grow as the

years progress, ensuring slow growth for children who are economically disadvantaged and accelerated growth for those from more privileged backgrounds."

Illiteracy is expensive. On average, adults at the lowest levels of literacy:

Economics

- Earn about \$230-\$245 per week
- Work only 18-19 weeks each year
- Are more than three times as likely to receive food stamps (17%-19% as compared to 4% of those who read at the highest levels)
- Are almost ten times more likely to be living below the poverty line (41%-44% as compared to 4%-8%)

Incarceration

- Between 31% and 40% of prisoners read at the lowest literacy level, which is at least ten percentage points worse than the national average
- Only four percent to seven percent of the prison population reads at the highest two literacy levels, compared to 18% to 21% of the rest of the population (Illiteracy: The Downfall of American Society, Education Portal, 2011)

We believe that the first step in developing a love of books and reading is to give children, through the schools and organizations that serve them, books to take home and to keep to be read, re-read and shared.



Reading unlocks a world of opportunities

The Inland Empire Children's Book Project is a 100% volunteer, 501 (c)(3), nonprofit corporation. All tax-deductible donations directly support our mission. You can donate in-person, on our website at www.IECBP.org, or via regular mail at the following address:

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