

Literacy Day at PS 246

By **HEATHER HADDON**

Children at PS 246 leapt into reading during a literacy celebration earlier this month, held at 12 schools in Community School District 10. Activities at the Fordham school on TIGER (Totally Into Getting Everyone Reading) Day, included a parade, face painting, and lots of guided reading.

Organized by local parent Ronn Jordan who works for Literacy Inc., a citywide nonprofit that encourages children to read, the day brought out City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera for a visit.

"It's important to show kids our involvement," said Rivera, who represents Fordham and has advocated funding for the program since he took office in 2001. The Literacy Inc. program — which helps community leaders organize support for reading in

local schools — is now running in roughly 35 District 10 schools.

This is the first year that Literacy Inc. has worked with PS 246, and principal Jackquelyne Young can already see the difference. "The kids are definitely reading more," said Young, who has led PS 246 since last September. "They are checking more books out."

While PS 246 does not have a library (construction will begin on one this summer), kids have snapped up books on a cart that is wheeled between classrooms. And in November, the school held a library card drive — encouraging families to get their cards. As a result, books have been on the students' brains. "They share what happened in their books in the classroom," Young said. "They talk about who their favorite authors are."

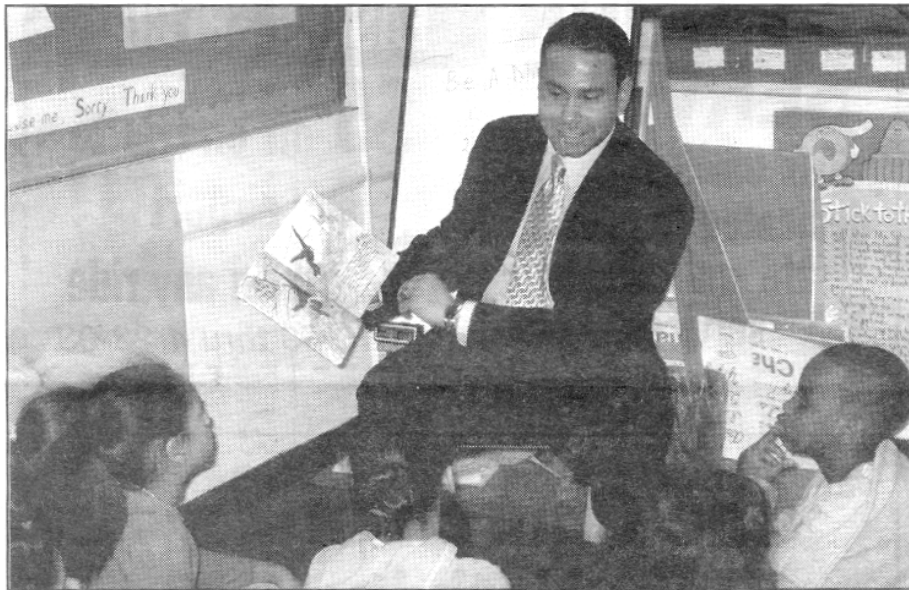


Photo by Heather Haddon

City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera reads to kids at PS 246 from a book about tigers.