

Event Celebrates Early Literacy

Community School District 10 and the nonprofit group Literacy, Inc (LINC) held an event celebrating family literacy and related efforts at local schools on Wednesday, May 22 at the College of Mount St. Vincent. Parents, educators, community groups and politicians were invited to attend the event, which included presentations from TAPCO (a performing arts middle school) and PS/MS 396, speakers from LINC and the school board; and displays of local students' work (like books of poems, short stories, and persuasive essays).

Ronn Jordan, a LINC staffer and parent of three children at PS 56 in Norwood, said the event was about "celebrating a year's worth of hard work, and making the connection between family literacy and the wonderful results you see with these kids today." LINC, which District 10 Superintendent Irma Zardoya called "one of the most important organizations in New York City working with schools, parents and communities,"

aims to get students reading on time so that they can achieve and excel in life.

LINC is currently active in over 40 elementary schools in nine districts in New York City, with 18 middle and high schools that provide reading partners to young children. A sixth grader and a third grader attending the event worked together as "Book Buddies" in one of these programs. Every Friday, the girls got together to read a book together and, as a final project, made their own illustrated short story based on "Charlotte's Web." Both students said they learned a lot and had fun through the experience, and hoped there would be more LINC activities next school year.

A slide show of Richard Peck's poem "20 Minutes a Day" was shown on continuous loop behind the presenters at the event. One line emphasized the day's message that parental involvement will lead to capable students and successful people: "Remedial? 'Gifted?' You have the choice."