

ONE Access Transforms Students' Educational Experience



The bedtime story – it is a common ritual in many households, except for homes where parents work during the evening or do not speak English.

“Some of my students’ parents work during the evenings and are unable to help them with homework or read to them,” explained Cathy DuPre, Media Coordinator for J.H. Gunn Elementary. “Or in some cases, the parents only speak Spanish and cannot read to their children in English or assist with homework.”

When Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the Library teamed up in August, leaders from both organizations envisioned the myriad ways that this partnership could extend access

to important resources and materials to thousands of students. Now, many teachers are witnessing the benefits of the initiative, *ONE Access* (One Number Equals Access). Through *ONE Access*, students use their school ID numbers instead of separate library cards to access Library databases, borrow digital materials such as e-books, and borrow up to 10 print or audio books.

Whether a child needs research material for an upcoming writing assignment, virtual tutoring, or access to Library tools such as *Tumblebooks*, *ONE Access* enhances education both in and out of the classroom.

“One of my students said her mother works until midnight each night, so she couldn’t read to her during the evening,” said DuPre, “I showed the student how she could access *Tumblebooks* using a cell phone, and the animated app will read to her each evening.”

In addition to services like *Tumblebooks*, students have access to popular online resources needed to assist with science projects and also access tutor.com--a professional, online tutoring service.

“*ONE Access* is so powerful because students can use the Library to build on the concepts taught in the classroom,” DuPre explained. “For example, *PowerKnowledge* enhances science concepts for students in

grades 3 through 6. I’ve given my students time to explore, learn, and evaluate these resources.”

At DuPre’s school, J.H. Gunn Elementary, 80% of the 809 students use their *ONE Access* accounts, which is slightly higher than the 78% of students district wide using *ONE Access*.

“We’re encouraging our teachers to reinforce the availability of these resources using *ONE Access* accounts,” DuPre said. “And, there’s a district-wide goal to have 100% of students using their accounts by spring break.”

As more and more students turn to the Library to find information and resources, it is very important to ensure books, e-books, and digital resources are available to students. To help us keep up with the demand, please consider donating to support books and materials at foundation.cmlibrary.org. For consistent updates about *ONE Access*, please visit cmlibrary.org/oneaccess.



As of March 25, 2016 **MORE THAN**
113,000 Students
have used their *ONE Access* accounts



Get Ready With Words

Prepares Thousands of Children for School

“My son loves school, and I think it’s because of Get Ready With Words. It’s rewarding to see him come home with all stars.”

Children from low-income families will hear 30 million fewer words than children from families with higher income, according to a study, *The Early Catastrophe: The 30 Million Word Gap by Age 3*, by University of Kansas researchers. The researchers also found that a child’s vocabulary at age three may predict his or her vocabulary and reading comprehension in third grade.

Why is third grade so important for vocabulary and reading comprehension?

“Third grade is so important because it’s the critical dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn,” Munro Richardson, Executive Director of Read Charlotte explained. “Eighty-nine percent of low income children who are reading on grade level by third grade will graduate high school on-time nine years later.” Unfortunately, only 39% of all third graders in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are reading on grade level.

The Library plays a vital role in helping parents build their child’s vocabulary and teach him or her how to read prior to kindergarten, with free access to literacy workshops, storytimes and other activities.

In October, 2014, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Discovery Place and Community School of the Arts received a \$1 million grant from the PNC Foundation to create “Get Ready With Words.” This multi-year vocabulary building

initiative works with underserved children ages birth to age five in two neighborhoods, Grier Heights and Montclair South, as well as in 19 Library locations, on a weekly basis.

“Get Ready With Words helped prepare my son, Darrius, for pre-kindergarten,” said Jessica, a participant and volunteer for *Get Ready With Words*. “He’s in pre-kindergarten now and doing great. He’s identifying different words and loves to read.”

As of February, *Get Ready With Words* has served a total of 98 families, including 130 children ages five and under. More than 40 additional school-age siblings or relatives have attended the program on days when CMS was closed and during community festivals.

“My son loves school, and I think it’s because of *Get Ready With Words*,” Jessica said. “It’s rewarding to see him come home with all stars.”

As our community looks to increase reading proficiency among our children, programs from the Library like *Get Ready With Words* will be more important than ever. To find literacy building activities or to learn more about *Get Ready With Words*, visit www.getreadywithwords.org.



Ways to Support the Library:

Carnegie Circle and Dewey Circle

The Carnegie Circle, named in honor of Andrew Carnegie and his generous donations that helped fund more than 2,500 libraries around the world, recognizes donors who make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation. Your gift will help children learn to read, help teenagers succeed in school, help adults prepare for and secure new jobs, and extend our long history of public-private partnership to grow our Library and serve the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

To learn how to join the Carnegie Circle, contact Teleia White, Director of Individual Giving, at 704-416-0803 or twhite@cmlibrary.org.



The Dewey Circle acknowledges the outstanding generosity of friends and donors who have included the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation in their estate plans. The Dewey Circle honors Bessie Lacy Dewey, Charlotte’s first librarian. Legacy gifts will provide crucial support for the Library in the years to come, helping us continue to provide for learners of all ages throughout our community.

To learn more about how to include the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation in your estate plans, please contact Karen Beach, Deputy Director at 704-416-0802 or kbeach@cmlibrary.org.

“The Free Library promotes the important civic good of knowledge and education. By improving our community and electorate, each of us is enhanced. Simply put, I do not want to live in a community that sequesters knowledge from all members of the community. The library is a tide that raises all boats and improves all of our lives. None of us are immortal and by including the Library in our estate planning we can influence the immediate and distant future.”

– Twig and Barb Branch, Carnegie and Dewey Circle Members

More Than Books

Library Provides Pathway to Economic Opportunity

Nine years ago, after battling alcohol addiction, Michael found himself jobless and homeless. After months in a homeless shelter, Michael made a decision to pursue sobriety. Once he was sober, he knew he was employable and wanted to find a job. Uncertain of where to turn, Michael asked a few of his acquaintances from the homeless shelter where they go to look for jobs—that's when he learned about the Job Help Center at the Main Library.

"I never realized how much the Library had to offer," said Michael. "After three months of working with the librarians in the Job Help Center on my resume, I was able to secure a job. And, every job I've had since then has been found through the Job Help Center."

Last year, 2,760 people visited the job help center, which offers career counseling, resume assistance, mock interview sessions, and online job application assistance.

According to the Pew Research Center, economic advancement motivates many people to use the Library, and last year 23 percent of those who visited a library did so to look or apply for a job. In a recent survey, the center found that many believe libraries are pathways to economic opportunity, providing resources for business development, job search and enhancing workforce skills.



LAST YEAR,
2,760

 people visited the job help center

Eight years since Michael turned to the Library to find a job, he's working full-time and renting his own place.

"It's been so rewarding to return to the Job Help Center and tell the librarians – those who've answered my every question and who have taught me how to use a computer—I've found a job," Michael explained. "I'm so thankful for the Library and how they've helped me along the way."

Michael's story is one of many who have used the Library to better their economic situation in Mecklenburg County, providing free access to resources and materials that build their knowledge and find jobs. To support programs like the Job Help Center, visit foundation.cmlibrary.org.

2016 Literary Weekend



Mark your calendars for the 2016 Literary Weekend – November 3-5 Verse & Vino and EpicFest

Presented by PNC Bank, the Library Foundation's third annual literary fundraising event, *Verse & Vino*, will take place on

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016 at the Charlotte Convention Center. Last year, more than 900 people attended, and the event netted more than \$160,000 for our Library. Hosted by Honorary Chairs, Katie Belk Morris, chair of the Belk Foundation, and Charles Thomas, program director of the Knight Foundation, the special evening will feature a cocktail reception and book sales, seated dinner (with vino), and an entertaining program featuring five *New York Times* bestselling authors. Past authors include Kathy Reichs, Gregory Maguire, Chris Bohjalian, Karin Slaughter, Debbie Macomber and Ron Rash. Event tickets will go on sale this summer. Corporate and book club sponsorships are available by calling Jenni Gaisbauer, Executive Director, at 704-416-0801 or by email at jgaisbauer@cmlibrary.org.

On **November 4-5**, the Library Foundation, with presenting sponsor Wells Fargo and community partner Read Charlotte, will host the second annual *EpicFest*, a free family literary festival that connects family, children and teens to the Library, while strengthening

and instilling the love of reading. Last year, the festival reached more than 3,500 students and parents. *EpicFest* will feature 8-10 award-winning children and young adult authors and illustrators. On Friday, Nov. 4, the authors will visit more than a dozen CMS schools. On Saturday, Nov. 5, the festival will feature the authors, activities for all ages, book sales, and so much more at *ImaginOn*. *EpicFest* was created by the Library Foundation and Jim Preston and family to remember and honor Elizabeth (Libby) Preston's passion for reading and for encouraging and instilling a love of reading in children.



Friends Council Corner



What a phenomenal year 2015 was for the Friends Council! Not only were we able to raise funds for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation by hosting pop-up book sales at various library locations throughout the county, but the Council also held the most successful *Rock & Read 5K* to date. In addition, Council members worked alongside Habitat for Humanity to install *Little Free Libraries* within neighborhoods in Charlotte. This partnership promises to be one to flourish for years to come.

Finally, we were thrilled to make a matching monetary gift to the Library Foundation on #GivingTuesday. Through grassroots efforts, we were able to reach friends far and wide who generously gave to the Foundation. These donations exceeded our match and together provided a very healthy gift of more than \$30,000. We are forever grateful to each of you who gave your time, treasure and talents throughout the year to help us raise awareness of the needs of the

Library as well as to tell the story of the great services that are provided by this system to each of us every day.

We have a lot in store this year – more pop-up book sales in new locations throughout the county, more *Little Free Libraries* in neighborhoods where books are needed, and a *Rock & Read 5K* which promises to be bigger and better than ever before. But we can't do this work alone. We would love for you to join us. Come buy books or volunteer your time at a book sale. Run in the *Rock & Read 5K* or help us register participants or pass out water to thirsty runners. Donate books for both the book sales and the *Little Free Libraries*. We are always looking for more ways to engage with the community and hope to see you soon.

– Heather McCullough, Chair, Friends Council

Events...

Friends Council Pop-Up Book Sale

Saturday, May 7 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Davidson Library
119 South Main Street, Davidson

Friends Council Pop-Up Book Sale

June 11, 2016 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Mint Hill Library
6840 Matthews - Mint Hill Road, Mint Hill

Friends Council Rock & Read 5K

Fall 2016 • Plaza Midwood Library
1623 Central Avenue, Charlotte
www.rockandread5k.com

Verse & Vino

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016 • The Charlotte Convention Center

EpicFest

Nov. 5, 2016 • ImaginOn

For the latest event information, visit foundation.cmlibrary.org



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