



2013-2014 Highlights

Linking DC public schools, families, and our community.

Providing Family Learning Opportunities

Turning the Page Community Nights continued to empower parents to become more active and effective participants in their children's education. Attending teachers and staff provided classroom- and school-specific insights, while giving parents an opportunity to build working relationships with the school community. As always, Community Nights included a free, healthy family dinner, child mentoring, and free books for families' home libraries. This year's evenings were more interactive than ever, from community-building icebreakers to activity stations with students and school staff. At the math- and science-themed nights, families created their own money, played grocery store, made bubbles and slime, and left with the resources to recreate it all at home. At King Elementary, teachers from each grade level led families in math activities designed to reinforce grade-specific skills and concepts. At Patterson Elementary, families made their own ice cream from just a few household ingredients. During parent workshops, participants shared ideas and perspectives on preparing students for assessments, creating learning opportunities at home, and using technology to support student learning.



Expanding TTP's Continuum of Service to DCPS Families

TTP invested more deeply than ever in Washington, D.C.'s Ward 8 public school community by forming partnerships with two of the three DCPS middle schools in Ward 8, Kramer and Hart. These new investments have been critical to our efforts to extend our continuum of services to include families from pre-K through 8th grade. Workshops for middle school parents focused on how parents can support students as they make critical decisions about their future, such as which high school to attend and how to prepare for college and career.



Building Dynamic Partnerships

TTP also formed a new partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. On a cold February night, 54 families from Kramer, Hart, and Raymond—including more than 100 students—joined TTP for a private event at the Museum's Q?rius exhibit. The Q?rius exhibit was designed to be part museum, part lab, and part classroom, giving students and families an opportunity to explore riches of natural science while learning directly from scientists and Smithsonian representatives.

Bringing Books to Life: TTP Author Visits

Each year, TTP invites local authors and illustrators to attend Community Nights to share their work and career insights. This year's authors included Cokie Roberts, Sushmita Mazumdar, Fred Bowen, Michelle Green, Jennifer O'Connell, Erica S. Perl, Nancy Silberkleit, Susan Stockdale, Carole Geithner, and the Split This Rock DC Youth Poetry Slam Team.



Author and journalist **Cokie Roberts** (left) shared her acclaimed book, *Founding Mothers*, which was recently adapted for children. In the parent workshop, Cokie discussed her career as a journalist and challenges of being a woman in the field, as well ways to inspire students to become more interested in reading and writing about history from a young age.

Author **Carole Geithner** (right) visited Kramer Middle School to share how she began writing and the story behind her novel *If Only*. Students from the Kramer Book Club read *If Only* in the weeks prior to the event, then invited their parents to join in a discussion of their thoughts and questions about the book with Carole.



Author and illustrator **Sushmita Mazumdar** (left, at Raymond Education Campus) led storytelling and book-making workshops at all six TTP partner schools. Parents and children shared “family legends” and worked together to make original storybooks. Sushmita, who makes all of her books by hand, also shared her book *Mangali, The Very Special Goat*.



Helping Parents and Students Lead and Serve

Turning the Page's **Parent Leadership** initiatives help parents **identify their strengths, build social capital within their school communities, and take action for school improvement.** To date TTP has trained more than **200 parents** to become successful change makers. TTP held two Parent Leadership Conferences this school year. Parent Leaders had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with representatives from local government and DC Public Schools, including Councilmember and mayoral Candidate Muriel Bowser. Parents also designed plans of action to address issues ranging from the nutritional content of school lunches to how schools can



“Even if you’re quiet, even if you don’t *think* you’re a leader, you *are* a leader, because the things that you take away from Turning the Page show you how to get things done in your children’s school.” — TTP Parent Leader

Parent Leaders Connecting Schools and Families with Resources

Parent leaders at King Elementary School organized a Literacy Night and resource fair. The idea was born during a Parent Leader Morning at King, when parents collaborated on a common ambition to connect their schools and families with local educational resources in the District. Representatives from the DC Public Library, Early Stages, OCTO, Reading Rockets, Trusted Health Plan, and Andrews Federal Credit Union gave presentations and distributed materials on their work. TTP also unveiled King students’ Literacy Through Photography program pieces, which remained on display throughout the evening. As parents visited the resource tables, students completed craft and literacy activities with school and TTP staff.

