



COMMUNITY
READING BUDDIES

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Fall 2022 Program Report

ABOUT COMMUNITY READING BUDDIES

For nearly 30 years, Community Reading Buddies (CRB) has mobilized and trained Bay Area middle and high school students to mentor young readers in literacy. In fall 2022, CRB broke new ground with its largest-ever school-year cohort engaging in our first-ever hybrid program with both in-person and virtual components.

ABOUT CRB'S FALL PROGRAM

To jumpstart the fall session, CRB hosted an in-person kickoff event, attended by nearly 100 children, teens, families, and community members. Youth Mentors and Buddies engaged in getting-to-know-you activities and book sharing together, families participated in a workshop hosted by Tandem, and Oakland author Angela Dalton led a read-aloud from her book, *Show the World*. All attendees received a signed copy of *Show the World* to add to their home libraries, in addition to a wide variety of other books provided by CRB & Tandem.



Following the in-person kickoff event, Buddies were paired one-on-one with a Youth Mentor. Over 100 Buddy and Youth Mentor pairs - nearly 200 students altogether - worked together twice weekly on individualized literacy activities through the award-winning digital literacy platform, BookNook, in addition to CRB's extensive suite of literacy resources.



Impact Snapshot

5

Average number of months of reading growth by Buddies

34

Percentage of Buddies who reached grade-level reading through CRB

90

Percentage of Youth Mentors who grew in at least one social-emotional skill

CRB'S FALL RESULTS

And the results from our fall session were outstanding: our young readers grew by an average of five months in literacy in just seven weeks! This remarkable growth puts our students on the track to becoming proficient readers - setting them up for success in school and beyond. Perhaps even more impressive is that over one-third of our students who began the fall program reading below grade level ended the seven-week program at or above grade level in reading!



We call out "Play ball!" to start. Then we toss the ball. We run and chase and loss and catch and play!



We might fall, but we always get up. We do not halt until the game is over!

While CRB promoted the growth and development of our young readers throughout our fall session, we also supported our volunteer Youth Mentors. To mark the conclusion of the fall program, CRB hosted a Youth Mentor Development Day at San Francisco's Salesforce Tower to provide workshops around resume-building, money management, and planning for post-high school success - all while celebrating CRB's teen volunteers and their contributions to their communities.

"CRB helped me find easier ways to connect with kids and people as a whole."
 - Aidan, CRB Youth Mentor

Thanks to the myriad development opportunities available to Youth Mentors through CRB, these teen volunteers demonstrated significant growth over the course of the fall program. Over 90% of Youth Mentors self-reported improvement in at least one social-emotional trait, growing in attributes such as showing patience with others, facilitating conversations, and asking questions to understand someone better. Claire, a CRB Youth Mentor, reflected on her time in CRB: "I feel that I've become more confident and more adept at making people feel comfortable and supported in their conversation and learning."

The development of these critical soft skills paves the way for success in college, career, and life after high school for CRB's Youth Mentors - highlighting the impact that CRB can have on students across the K-12 spectrum.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING 2023

CRB is eagerly preparing for an even larger cohort in Spring 2023, with all CRB staff and many Youth Mentors returning. The program promises to be better than ever!

About CRB's Buddies & Youth Mentors in Fall 2022



181
Students



100
Pairs



1,097
Hours Volunteered

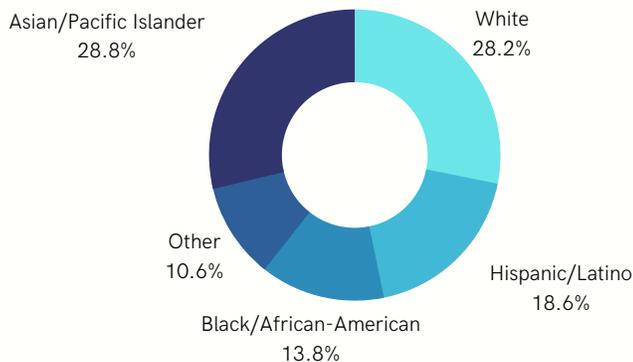


40
Bay Area
Middle & High Schools



20
OUSD Elementary
Schools

Racial & Ethnic Demographic Makeup



"Naima has shown a huge improvement and outlook... She now looks forward to reading!"
 - Tyrah, parent of CRB Buddy who grew nearly five months in reading



HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS - MANY THANKS TO ALL OF THEM!



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