

read ahead

Books & Beyond Virtual Gala

A CELEBRATORY WEEK
OF INSPIRING STORIES

September 10-16, 2020

HONORING



@ReadAheadNY

#BooksandBeyond2020



Dear Read Ahead Family,

Welcome to our very first virtual Books & Beyond Gala celebration!

While we will miss being together in person, we are very excited to be presenting a series of online events and initiatives to celebrate our community of mentees, mentors, and supporters. We believe we have made the most out of the opportunities presented by coming together virtually, and trust that you will agree!

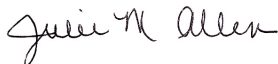
We hope you will mark your calendars for this full schedule of happenings, and participate in the conversation by using the hashtag **#BooksandBeyond2020** to share your chapter of the Read Ahead story.

Thank you so much for being a part of the Read Ahead community, and for your support of our program!

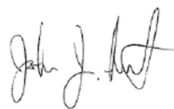
Warmly,



Kristen Baldwin
Executive Director



Julie M. Allen
Gala Co-Chair



John J. Smith
Gala Co-Chair





Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Matilda Raffa Cuomo, Chair



September 1, 2020

Dear Read Ahead Team and Mentors,

It is my great pleasure to write you in thanks and to offer my everlasting support for the work you do with your students. Reading is a fundamental building block to success and you are making sure our children are ready for the challenges that lay ahead. The companionship you provide is also essential in a young person's development and now, more than ever, through this pandemic.

Our students lost their daily interactions with friends, teachers, bus drivers, coaches and even their own family members as quarantines have swept our state and nation. The disruption on our students' daily routines is taking a toll on their social and emotional well-being.

Clearly, the connection you provide your student is critical. Our students need supportive friends and adults to coach, cheerlead, guide and mentor them through these times. The Read Ahead motto says, "Share a page in a child's life". That is what you all are doing when you read with your student. You are a part of their story while helping them see the value and importance of reading.

I applaud you all for the tremendous effort you have given your students over many years. I know that this year will be very different than we anticipated, and the best thing we can do for our students is continue to be a consistent and caring presence in their lives.

Thank you, Read Ahead family. You have much work to do and I wish you the best of success.

Sincerely,

Matilda Raffa Cuomo
Founder and Chair
New York State Mentoring Program

• Be NY Tough. Be a Mentor! •



1-844-337-6304
ny.gov/mentoring

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OUR HONOREE: DLA PIPER



Read Ahead is thrilled to present DLA Piper with the Award for Corporate Volunteerism.

In our 10 years of partnership, more than 80 DLA Piper volunteers have mentored K-5th grade students at P.S. 111 in Manhattan. DLA Piper stands out among our partners with many long-serving mentors who create lasting relationships that drive impact for students. Among last year's DLA Piper mentors, more than half had volunteered for two years or more and a third for three years or more.



The leadership and dedication of DLA Piper volunteers is second to none. Partner Christopher Paci has served on Read Ahead's Board of Directors since 2016, and chairs the Governance and Nominations Committee. Additionally, we are grateful to DLA Piper volunteers who organized one of our largest book drives to date, collecting over 200 new books during the 2019 holiday season.

THANK YOU DLA PIPER MENTORS!



Mark Pellis and his mentee Liam
have fun playing hangman



Lorna Bernard and her mentee
Hannah spent three years together



Co-mentors Cassandra Pugliese and
Carl Lawrence are all smiles with
their mentee Brooklyn



Ismael Perez and his mentee Aiden
love to draw together



Jada Werkhoven and her mentee
Alex are all smiles



Amaris Sanchez and her
mentee Lorelei enjoy a holiday read

THANK YOU DLA PIPER MENTORS!

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Paul Ahn | Neil Kharade | Brandon Schwartz |
| Elizabeth Arno | Crystal Lewin | Cara Scott |
| Fran Ashby | Anne Liu | Tomasita Sherer |
| Diana Bean* | Maria Longoria* | Cynthia Stadum |
| Lorna Bernard* | Inna Mankevych | Elizabeth Surcouf |
| Charles Carroll | Maria Matos* | Sean Thorsen |
| Debra Catanzaro* | Juana Medina* | Rubini Uthayakumar |
| Eric Chen | Elizabeth Miney | Jada Werkhoven |
| Gwendolyn Chen | Asha Natarajan | Dennis Williams |
| Michelle Creary* | Christopher Paci* | |
| Said Ertekin | Mark Pellis* | |
| Priscilla Escobedo | Ismael Perez | |
| Christine Farrelly* | Donna Pryce* | |
| Kevin Glenn | Kassandra Pugliese | |
| Jason Goldstein* | Charlotte Robbins | |
| Maria Grabis | Carolyn Russo* | |
| Michael Greenberg | Romell Sadler* | |
| Janeen Hall | Amaris Sanchez* | |
| Lori Holmes | Emily Sanders | |
| Julia Jampietro | Jaymin Santos* | |
| Witold Jurewicz | Michael Scarduzio | |

(*) indicates 3+ years participating as a Read Ahead mentor

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Gala Schedule at a Glance



KICKOFF WELCOME

Thursday 9/10

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Friday, 9/11



SILENT READING PARTY

Saturday, 9/12

SUNDAY READ ALONGS

Sunday, 9/13



VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION RAISING RESILIENT READERS

Monday, 9/14

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

Tuesday, 9/15



BOOKS & BEYOND VIRTUAL GALA

Wednesday, 9/16



KICKOFF WELCOME

Thursday 9/10 at 6PM EST

Join Read Ahead's Executive Director Kristen Baldwin for a live kickoff to the week. Kristen will share Read Ahead updates, heartwarming stories of impact, answer questions in the live feed, and raise a glass to the week ahead, where we'll celebrate all things Read Ahead!



HOW TO PARTICIPATE



Log onto Instagram and watch when we go live. Be sure you're following us @ReadAheadNY

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE & REMEMBRANCE

Friday, 9/11



Read Ahead will join thousands of organizations across the country to honor the memory of those who were lost on September 11 by recognizing service in our community. This spirit of unity and compassion will be a focus across Read Ahead's social media platforms.



SILENT READING PARTY

Saturday, 9/12 from 10AM - 12PM EST

HOSTED BY THE READ AHEAD JUNIOR BOARD

Spend your Saturday curled up with a good book and good company! Bring your favorite reading material and join us on Zoom. Pop in whenever and stay as long as you like.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

REGISTER

Click the red button to register.

It's free, with an optional donation to Read Ahead.



SUNDAY READ ALONGS

Sunday, 9/13; see schedule below in EST



Sit down with special guest readers as they share their favorite read alongs.

10:00

GOOD MORNING!



I Am Enough by Grace Byers

Read by Asia G., mentor and Junior Board Member



If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura Numeroff

Read by Jason C., volunteer from PricewaterhouseCoopers



Fauja Singh Keeps Going by Simran Jeet Singh

Read by Tanya K., Junior Board Member from Paul, Weiss

12:00

LUNCHTIME READS



Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao by Kat Zhang

Read by Charlie X., mentor and Junior Board Member from PricewaterhouseCoopers



Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena

Read by Jenna C., volunteer

07:00

BEDTIME



My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero

Read by Joyce C., mentor and Junior Board Member from Cravath, Swaine & Moore



CJ's Big Dream by C.J. Watson

Read by Petiri R., mentor and Junior Board Member from Bloomberg LP

HOW TO PARTICIPATE



Log into Facebook and visit Read Ahead's page at premiere times. If you can't make it at those times, video read alongs will be available on our Facebook page following their premieres. Be sure to follow us @ReadAheadNY



VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION

RAISING RESILIENT READERS

Monday, 9/14 from 6:00PM - 7:30PM EST

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on New York City public schools and students. Join us for a fascinating conversation with principals and educators from Read Ahead's school partners on how schools, families, and communities can work together to support children and foster success during this difficult time.

Moderated by Read Ahead's Executive Director Kristen Baldwin. Panelists include:



Aminah Abusway
Community School
Director, P.S. 67
The Dorsey School



Renny Fong
Principal, P.S. 130



Kyesha Jackson
Principal, P.S. 67
The Dorsey School



Kyesha Lewis
Program
Coordinator,
Read Ahead



Esther Reyes
Assistant Principal,
P.S. 92Q

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

REGISTER

Click the red button to register.

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

Tuesday, 9/15 at 12PM EST



Join us at lunchtime for the world premiere of our collection of video messages for Read Ahead students as they get ready for the 2020-21 school year. You'll hear from Read Ahead mentors, Board and Junior Board members, program coordinators, staff and maybe even a few special guests! Join the conversation by filming or writing your own message to Read Ahead students and using the hashtag #shareapage

HOW TO PARTICIPATE



Log into Facebook and visit Read Ahead's page at premiere time. If you can't make it at that time, the video will be available on our Facebook page following its premiere. Be sure to follow us @ReadAheadNY



BOOKS & BEYOND VIRTUAL GALA

Wednesday, 9/16

Celebrate with us at our virtual Gala event, where we'll share heartwarming stories and our vision for the future. We'll also toast to our honoree, DLA Piper, for their enduring partnership.



5:45PM

Pre-Show DJ Warm-Up Set & Signature Cocktail Demo



6:00PM

Gala Celebration



6:30PM

Post-Show Dance Party!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

REGISTER

Click the red button to register. A link will be sent one day prior to our live stream.

How to Support read ahead



Text "ra" to 50155



[Click here!](#)





GET IN THE PARTY SPIRIT!



MEET OUR DJS!

SIGNATURE COCKTAIL RECIPE!

PRINTABLE SIGN!

Meet Our DJs



Bunkr Collective is Sara Aboulafia and Jess Ramsay - writers, sound designers, musicians, and video creators. We make absurdist comedy videos, music, and look at pop culture w/an intersectional feminist lens. When we're making music, we're called Cabin Never.



Our Signature Cocktail: The "Read Ahead Mentee-ni"

Created by Shay Taylor, personal chef & bartender
Inspired by the red in Read Ahead's logo!

Join Shay for a
demo during our
Gala Pre-Show
5:45PM EST on 9/16

Ingredients

1.5 oz watermelon infused gin*
.5 oz Campari
.5 oz lemon juice
.5 oz simple syrup

Directions

*Watermelon infused gin: chop up about a cup of ripe watermelon and pour in about half a liter to a liter of gin. Let it sit at room temp for about 2hrs. Use or refrigerate.

Simple syrup: equal parts sugar/honey/maple syrup/brown sugar/any sweetener and hot water. Let sugar dissolve and chill.

Shake or vigorously stir ingredients with ice and strain in glass of choice with a lime wheel. Over ice optional!



Make it a Mocktail Instead!

Watermelon infused seltzer (same process as making the gin, but refrigerate throughout)
0.5 oz Citrus juice (lemon or lime)
Simple Syrup to taste
Mint or a lime wheel, or pre-made watermelon balls

Mix citrus juice and simple syrup together. Pour infused seltzer over mixture to fill the remainder of your glass. Garnish with mint or a lime wheel, and/or pre-made watermelon balls



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IS #1 IN MY
BOOK!

#BooksandBeyond2020



THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US!



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