

EDUCATION NEWS

AIM Academy Students Read and Share Books with Ziegler Elementary Classes

MLK Service Project for Students with Language-Based Learning Differences Helps Them Share Literacy Skills and Love of Books with Students



AIM Academy students, who have language-based learning differences such as dyslexia, practiced and prepared their reading presentations before arriving to read to students at Ziegler Elementary School.



AIM 5th Graders and Ziegler Kindergarten students hold their books high during the AIM Academy students' MLK Service Day visit to Ziegler Elementary School in Northeast Philadelphia.



An AIM Academy 5th grader reads to a Ziegler Elementary kindergarten student. The AIM Institute for Learning & Research has been working with educators and students at Ziegler for the past three years implementing AIM's Integrated Literacy Model to help improve reading proficiency.



A Ziegler Kindergarten student eagerly pages through one of the new books he received from AIM Academy students in an "at home book package."

AIM Academy 5th grade students traveled to Ziegler Elementary School in northeast Philadelphia on Friday to read books to students in Kindergarten – 2nd grade and deliver "at home book packages" featuring favorite titles donated by AIM's 1st – 5th grade Lower School students. The book delivery and school visit were the culmination of the students' service project in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The visit to Ziegler was also a way for AIM Academy students, who have language-based learning differences such as dyslexia and dysgraphia, to develop a relationship with Ziegler's students, many of whom are learning literacy skills using the same evidence-based methods taught in AIM's classrooms.

"The AIM Institute for Learning & Research has been working with educators at Ziegler for the past three years sharing our Integrated Literacy Model with teachers and students," said Suruchi Keenheel, Director of Instructional Coaching and Training for the AIM Institute. "We are pleased that our AIM Academy students are forging a new relationship with Ziegler students by sharing their love of reading and providing K-2 students with packages of books to enjoy at home."

In preparation for the visit to Ziegler, Lower School students were asked to bring a copy of their favorite book to school with a note written inside the front cover as to why the book is special to them. Thanks to the support of the entire AIM community, close to 500 books were collected. After spending 30 minutes reading to Ziegler students on Friday, AIM students provided the approximately 180 K-2nd grade students with an "at home book package" including a pencil, a bookmark and two to three books. The students were excited to page through their new books and were eager to take them home.

Ziegler teachers appreciated the opportunity for students to read together in small groups of 3 to 6 children as two AIM students read their chosen books to students. "Our 5th graders read with fluency, accuracy and confidence," said AIM teacher and project organizer Eryn Doroshow.

"The goal of our visit and the book collection was to increase Ziegler students' access to literacy during all parts of their day," explained AIM Lower School Head Allison Enslein. "This important endeavor helps our students gain confidence in their reading and helps to cultivate an attitude of gratitude helping our students think about gratitude in terms of what we give instead of what we receive."

Cardinal Foley Student Wins Prestigious Neumann Scholarship

Dora Tomko of Cardinal John Foley Regional Catholic School, has been awarded a Neumann Scholarship. Dora is an eighth grade student at Cardinal Foley and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tomko. The *Connelly Foundation Neumann Scholars Program* was launched in 1994. This scholarship program identifies academically talented eighth grade students through an independently administered competitive examination and provides four-year scholarships to attend any of the 17 high schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Each year approximately 35 scholarships are awarded.

The distribution of the scholarships is determined by the number of students who sit for the Neumann Scholarship Test in each county.

This year, 907 students took the test and 40 students were awarded a scholarship. The announcement was made by Josephine Mandeville, from the Connelly Foundation at an assembly for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students.

Cardinal John Foley Regional Catholic School is very proud of Dora and her accomplishment. Dora is the school's first Neumann Scholar!



Dora Tomko of Cardinal John Foley Regional Catholic School, has been awarded a Neumann Scholarship. From left – Rev. Kevin Gallagher, Josephine Mandeville (Presenter), Neumann Scholarship winner Dora Tomko, Rev. James Cox, and Mary Ann De Angelo, Principal.

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Narberth Area Garden Club Program

"Horticulture as Agent for Social Change" – Gardening and greening can be powerful agents of social change. This talk, presented by Nicole Juday Rhoads of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, will highlight inspiring local examples that show how horticulture can be successfully used as a tool for community development, improving neighborhoods, providing educational opportunities, promoting health and well-being of citizens, and addressing food insecurity. This program will take place Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. at the Narberth Municipal Building, 100 Conway Avenue, Narberth, PA 19072 (Haverford Ave. entrance). Free to members, \$5 for visitors. Visit <http://www.narberthareagardenclub.com>.

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