

President's Message

Dear Friends of the Library,

Again, not so good news abounds on the education of our youth. In Arkansas, 25 percent don't graduate from high school, 34 percent do, 24 percent graduate and go to college, 17 percent do it all and graduate. But in rural areas containing 42 percent of the population, only 12 percent graduate from college. These statistics from 2000 census include total population 25 years old and older.

And this just in. *The Wall Street Journal* reports, "In year with record number of test takers, math results show worst drop in 3 decades." The SAT results are presented. Over all, the scores are the lowest of the decade so far.

The numbers: Critical Reading 502 in 2007, 503 in 2006;
 Math 515 in 2007, 518 in 2006;
 Writing 494 in 2007, 497 in 2006.

The best face that can be put on this is that the greater number of test takers (some having no intention of attending college) caused the major decrease in scores. Of course, there are the other usual belly aches: Test too long temporally; Test more challenging; Calculator battery failed – the same belly aches I heard 40 years ago except for the calculator that didn't exist.

A reading child, a high SAT score, and high parental income seem to be the best indicators of success in college and life. A reading child normally leads to a high adolescent SAT score. A high SAT score doesn't necessarily cause high parental (parents of testee) income. This is the chicken/egg scenario.

The first listed indicator, a reading child, is the indicator we have the most and perhaps the only influence on. The library and FOLBC both have programs directed to encourage reading. The library houses a collection of books and holds regular story times for tots. Friends both read to tots regularly and deliver books to certain daycare centers for reading. All these efforts are devoted to creating a reading child, a high SAT score, and a high income adult.

Help us if you have a mind to. If you should be amenable to reading to tots or delivery of books to daycare facilities, call me or email me at 741-7121 or president1@folbc.org

George Cline, President

P.S. Visit our website URL www.folbc.org for a display of what it can be like reading to tots.

2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Boone Co., Arkansas, Inc.,
exists
for the enrichment of the total
resources and facilities of the
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The Bookplate is published by
Friends of the Library,
Boone Co., Arkansas, Inc.
a 501© (3) non-profit
organization
2007 circulation: 1200