

Dear Friends of the Library,

This issue of the Bookplate has a dual purpose. First, to honor those hard working folks at the Boone County Library through the Friends Library Staff Honor Project. Second, to provide a forum for staff introductions.

Friends introduce you to the owners of new staff faces seen at the library. And of course, familiar faces are known by patrons – unless patrons are new. It is a bi-directional street. The books selected by the library staff will give a hint of the varied interests members have. Get to know these folks. They can be helpful.

Friends has member Newell Stockslager of Newell's Photos take most of the pictures, and of course Friends pay for the books.

Schools start soon, which means OUR and Headstart day schools will also start. This in turn will mean Friends will start reading to students at the schools and also be providing mini-libraries of 25 to 50 books that can be read by day school staff or checked out to students for home use. This will be the second year that day care students can check out books. Of course Friends refresh books regularly by rotation of books from one school to the next.

Friends involvement in the day school project is an effort to improve scores on standardized tests. Reading appears to be a required requisite. Our expenses are the price of the books. All else is volunteer work. Perhaps we can make a difference. Spending by government apparently makes little difference.

Inflation adjusted outlays per student doubled between 1970 and 2004. The federal portion tripled. "No Child Left Behind" consumed additional outlays during the Bush years. And now comes Obama's "Race to the Top" with an initial \$4.35 billion to be awarded mainly on performance basis. But the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers won't back any pay for performance idea or charter school or vouchers. Data seems to credit charter schools and vouchers as having the best educational outcomes per cost of any implemented idea.

From my jobs, as paper boy to engineer, I don't recall ever working on a job where pay wasn't based on performance. The only issue is the definition of performance. Performance cannot be based on some scheme that bankrupts the company and the country as with the recent Wall Street crowd bonus performances.

Meanwhile, student test scores remain static. What are we to do, but try.

George Cline,
President

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the Boone County Library.

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