

Maine Reads Community Literacy Project Planning Grant Final Report

Please fill out the following final report and return within 60 days of the end of your grant or before filing a Maine Reads Community Literacy Project implementation grant, whichever comes sooner. The 2005 implementation grant deadline is April 15. This form is available on line and we would appreciate your return of this final report by copying it from our site www.mainereads.org and emailing it back to us at info@mainereads.org. If you do not have email, you may mail it to us at Maine Reads, 28 Winter Street, Portland, Maine 04012, but the electronic return is preferred. You will find that most of the questions listed below are the same as those we suggested you address at the Public Forum.

Library: *Palermo Community Library/ Palermo Consolidated School Library*
Address: *Palermo Consolidated School, LIBRARY, 501 Route 3*
City, State and Zip: *Palermo, ME 04354*
Librarian(s): *Anette Niedbala (school)/Community Library (volunteers)*
Contact person: *Anette Niedbala/Pam Lombard*
Phone: *993-2352 (Palermo school- ask for Anette) / 993-2158 (Pam at home)*
Email: niedbala_a@union133.org
Website if any: <http://169.244.54.200/plibrary/>

Please respond to the following questions.

1) Names of members/groups on the Advisory Panel and affiliations and titles:

Anette Niedbala, Librarian Palermo Consolidated School
Pam Lombard, parent, Palermo Community Library volunteer
Marty Bronson, Title 1 teacher, Palermo Consolidated School
Betty Holzer, Palermo Community Library Director
Adriene Caldwell, homeschool parent
Jill Rauch, parent volunteer Palermo school
Debra Langis, President Palermo School parents club, Palermo Rescue, Girl Scout leader
Anna Niedbala, student (grade 9)
Mallory Rauch, student (grade 7)

2) Did you hold the following meetings and what were the approximate number of attendees:

Meeting I Focus Group # of attendees 6
 Meeting II Public Forum # of attendees 10
Location: Palermo School Library
 Meeting III Project Meeting # of attendees 6

The public forum was extremely well advertised. We advertised at both libraries; at the Palermo town meeting; in 3 local newspapers; and sent a notice home with each school child. Although only 10 people came to the forum, we also drafted and distributed a questionnaire to get as much input as possible from the community. This questionnaire was included in the above-mentioned advertising and was also sent to the leaders of the various interest groups in Palermo. We received 25 responses to the questionnaire. Many of our responses to the questions below were based on the results of this questionnaire.

Responses from the questionnaire indicated that community members were interested in all of the listed activities, but very much in book clubs, reading and comprehension skills, writing skills, and book based dramatic activities. The majority of respondents felt that we should serve elementary and pre-teen aged groups. 17 of the 25 respondents indicated that they would help volunteer to run these activities. Most could make it in the evenings to these types of events.

3) What did you discover were the top 5 underserved populations in your community?
(Please list them in descending order)

Elementary School students

Middle school students

Preschool students

Seniors

Adults

4) What literacy programs/activities are currently taking place in your community?

Youth group at the Palermo Christian church for K-6 and 7-12 youth /bible study

Historical society gives historical talks about Palermo history

Palermo Library adult book club (inactive)

Title 1 outreach to parents through the Palermo School / family nights at least 2 per year

5) What is the most important contribution your organization makes to your community and how does it work towards the Vision, Goal and/or Objectives of the Maine Reads Community literacy Project?

We organized and ran an all-volunteer children's story hour last summer based on the Maine state program, Discovering New Trails.

6) What overlaps in services or groups served did you discover if any?

None

7) Please describe potential community partners and projects to reach the under-served.

Community Partners: Boy Scouts shelve books for community credit.

Senior/student partnership to share history, culture, hobbies

8) What literacy projects do you think are needed to fill the gaps in service in your community?

It would be beneficial to have a summer program for elementary school aged students to keep them reading during the summer and maintain their skill level. It would be ideal to have a middle school program as well to encourage reading for that age group.

9) What is your plan of action? How do you plan to address your communities literacy needs?

We plan to have a weekly program based on the Maine state curriculum theme: "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds for elementary aged children. In this program, we will feature weekly events including guest speakers to engage the children with demonstrations and activities. Activities will include art, music, crafts, costume making, fencing, and stories. Although this program will primarily be geared towards the elementary aged school children, we will have additional literary activities for the preschoolers at the same time.

We feel it critical that we also have a summer literary alternative for the middle school aged children. This age group is particularly hard to draw in so we have included two middle school aged children on our board and they plan to organize and run a program that will be attractive to their peers. This weekly club will include book discussions and dramatic activities surrounding the theme dragons, dreams and daring deeds. The advisory panel listed above will also advise and support this group, which will run for 5 weeks.

We will also run a reading incentives program. All participants of either group may set individual reading goals, work with an adult to meet those goals and be rewarded for achieving these goals.

10) Describe what you learned and how the project helped Maine Reads to reach its goal to strengthen families and support lifelong learning?

We learned that we need to do extensive outreach to educate community members on the importance of literacy related activities. By organizing another successful summer program, we hope to inspire students and their parents to a lifelong love of reading, and the arts.

Other comments?

We are very excited to build off of our last year's success with the help of Maine Reads. Although we were able to draw on volunteers in the community to lead our programs last year, we feel that the theme of Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds challenges us to provide some in depth programs that will include bringing in paid guest speakers.

Support from Maine Reads will allow us to do this. We hope that this theme will capture the imagination of the community and inspire greater involvement in the two libraries and literacy in Palermo and spark interest to offer year round activities.

To help other literacy organizations gain a better understanding of literacy needs and projects in Maine, may we share your responses and post them on the Maine Reads website? Yes No

Please feel free to provide a success story or information about how we may improve the Maine Reads Community Literacy project grants process. Thank you for your support!

Thank you.

