



A special thanks to everyone who stepped up and contributed to our Challenge Grant for special programs in our Tech Learning Center. For those interested in joining - *there's still time to send in your gifts* and help us leverage support!

Academic Activity on the Rise At VIPS Tech Learning Center

When school gets out – VIPS fills up. That’s what happens at VIPS Tech Learning Center thanks to new and continued support from individuals, businesses and foundations.

A flurry of activity and excitement is being generated by innovative after-school programs such as Robotics and Science taught by Brown University students. And the recent arrival of new hardware and software will soon enable VIPS to provide students



Juan Carlos Beteta helps a student at VIPS Tech Center.

with engaging newcomer English classes to improve their understanding of English and academic concepts. Most days the Center also sees a number of tutors/mentors scattered about working with students on any number of subjects.



Diony Garcia confers with a student working to improve her grades.

New Spanish bilingual staff members are providing the structure and momentum for our multitude of activities. Formerly a physics teacher, Juan Carlos Beteta is now VIPS

Program Coordinator, and Diony Garcia is the Assistant Coordinator. Together, the team ensures that students are focused and learning, and their time at VIPS is productive.

VIPS' SES Program Serves 91% More Students in 2009

VIPS' SES (Supplemental Education Services) program continues to enroll more students as parents become aware of our program, appreciate all of the personal communication VIPS provides, and are happy with their children's improved academic progress.

VIPS is one of two nonprofit education agencies providing the SES services in Providence. Teachers favor the curriculum we provide because it offers instruction on the child's instructional level rather than grade level. This strategy is considered highly progressive because it gives students that are behind instruction on their own level rather than losing them in grade level materials they do not understand.

VIPS to Honor Janet and Mel Zurier and Long-Time Business Partners

At 45th Anniversary and Volunteer Recognition Event

Support VIPS' important work with kids!

Join us in recognizing long-time business partners and volunteers.



Mel and Janet Zurier

Help us honor dynamic supporters Janet and Mel Zurier as we present them with the Helen King Life-long Learning Award for their extraordinary support of public education and community giving at VIPS' 45th Anniversary and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

On June 1, VIPS is celebrating 45 years of giving individual attention, academic assistance and career experience to Providence public school students. At our inception in the early 60's, 150 volunteers tutored 500 children. Today, VIPS is going strong with 1,200 volunteers providing services to more than 10,000 children. There are many accomplishments to look back on – and many exciting initiatives to come. Join us in marking a significant milestone touching thousands of lives!

VIPS Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held at Noon, June 1, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Tickets are \$60. For information or to purchase tickets, contact Philomena Santos-Higgins at 274.3240.

Sue Fairbanks Receives Mentoring Award



VIPS' Mentor Sue Fairbanks with parents Robert and Eileen

When asked, 'Why are you a VIPS tutor?' Sue Fairbanks, a Citizens Bank Efficiency Expert, is quick to respond, "Why not?" Sue, who was recently presented with a statewide Excellence in Mentoring Award, has been tutoring Rene Rossi, a Central High 9th grader, for five years.

They meet for an hour once a week. "You start off thinking you can help someone, but they actually help you out, too. It's one of the best things I do because it's so rewarding to me." Sue's advice to anyone considering becoming a VIPS' tutor: "I just think everyone should get out and do it!"

VIPS Student Excels



Volunteer tutor **Gloria Brewton Von Keller** with **Central High student Dunia Decarvalho**

Dunia Decarvalho is a 9th grader who first came to VIPS in 2008 because she needed help and her mother didn't understand her homework. The family comes from Cape Verde and Portugal, and her mom is an English language learner who works at a local buffet. "I

like VIPS because I want to learn English, math, biology and other subjects. I get help from different volunteers."

"My grades have gone up a lot since coming to VIPS," reports the young student. Dunia, who speaks five languages, is now on the Honor Roll. "I'm not satisfied until I have all A's."

Kids In VIPS' Reading Buddies Program Continue to Accelerate

VIPS has been partnering with the Providence Public School District and nine public elementary schools to deliver the Reading Buddies Intensive Intervention Program in grades K - 3. This exciting initiative aims to accelerate the progress low-performing students are making on reading skills by providing additional intensive reading intervention from extensively trained tutors. Originally slated to serve 98 students, due to its reputation among teachers, VIPS is now serving 325 enthusiastic learners.

Mid-year evaluations show that students in Reading Buddies are far outpacing their peers. For example, 47% of the Reading Buddies students are demonstrating greater progress in Oral Reading Fluency (ability to read accurately and fluently), than children not in the program.

According to Marilyn Salisbury, Reading Coach at Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School, "This program closes the (literacy) gap."

Educate a Child and Impact the Future Please consider these tax deductible options!

Can we continue to do it without you? No! As a VIPS supporter you are the lifeline to students who are working to improve academically. Because of you and others who see the value of investing in our kids, VIPS has been able to provide programs and services kids need to do better in school - and in life. Please give generously!

Donate Give on-line at www.vips4kids.org.
Mail your personal checks or money orders to:
VIPS, 905 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02903.

You can:

- ▶ Give in **Honor or Memory** of someone
- ▶ Make a multi-year **Pledge**
- ▶ Make a **Planned Giving** gift through a bequest, insurance policy, retirement policy or other vehicle
- ▶ Donate at your **Workplace** through United Way, CFC or State Employee Campaign.

Also, when you give, contact your company's Human Resources Department to find out if they offer a **Matching Gift Program**. You may be able to double the size of your donation!

For more information about making a gift, contact Phil Santos-Higgins at 401.274.3240.

THANK YOU!

Kids Love Reading with Their Power Lunch Partners



Cynthia Harrington reads with student **Luis Reyes.**

Cynthia Harrington, Rhode Island Hospital Administrative Coordinator, Neurology, has been part of VIPS' Power Lunch program for three years. The reading initiative pairs business people with kids. It enables Cynthia to share her love of reading with a child. This year she is reading with sixth grader, Luis Reyes. He loves Power Lunch and Cynthia because "I am learning new words and I can go anywhere I want to in the books." Currently, 10 companies serve eight schools in VIPS Power Lunch program.

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