



Local. Outreach. Volunteer. Educators.

L.O.V.E. MENTORS

Helping
Children
Learn

www.lovementors.org

October, 2017

Message from Board Chairman Karen Lindholm



Karen Lindholm
L.O.V.E. Board Chairman

Welcome back everyone, and a special warm welcome to 30+ new mentors. In this day and age of Harveys,

Irmas, earthquakes, and DC battles, let's turn our thoughts to the special kids who will become a part of our lives. They need us. You'll be surprised how much they give us and what we learn from them.

I'd be remiss not to give huge accolades to those people who worked all summer to keep LOVE the strong vibrant program it is.

While some of us were out of town including yours truly, Laura Wehrle, vice chair, and Dan Malachuk, recruiting chair, met on August 16th with Dr. Ann Levett, new SCCPSS superintendent, and her team. She is impressed with LOVE its scope and statistics. She wants us to grow in numbers, get started and continue helping children learn. She introduced Operation Beacon a new countywide volunteer program. Please understand that with this new program we must follow their request for background checks. Let's get that done by October 18th.

Since the meeting Laura worked tirelessly on every detail, Dan Malachuk recruited and kept track of over thirty new mentors, Carol Fallon wrote all publicity, Sam Lambert, our

secretary and technical expert, updated the roster, and Ginny Pierce ordered materials and prepared binders for new mentors.

LOVE would be nothing if it weren't for the 150 mentors out there making a difference in a child's life.

Thanks to you all. What a team LOVE is!

Karen

Karen Lindholm
L.O.V.E. Mentors Chair

Book Fair And Special Speaker

Monday, October 23 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Skidaway Island United Methodist Church

This is your chance to pick up free new books for your mentees.

Many students have no books at home and this is an opportunity for you to give the child a book to take home once he has been able to read it with you.

There will be a wide variety from pre-reader to chapter books.



Book Fair -- Special Speaker

At 4:00 p.m., L.O.V.E. is honored to introduce Ms. Aretha Rhone-Bush, Chief Academic Officer of SCCPSS. Ms. Rhone-Bush, the eldest of three daughters, grew up in poverty on food stamps in a single-parent household in Walterboro S.C. After graduating from high school, she earned a scholarship to the University of Kentucky and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins. She is married to the Honorable Clifford Bush III. She has a 15-year-old

daughter, Savannah, and a 27-year-old stepson, Rasheen. She is a remarkable woman.

She will tell us about the most effective ways to develop literacy in Savannah Title I Elementary students. Exciting changes in reading and writing instruction are happening in kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms in SCCPSS this school year. Don't miss the opportunity to hear about these exciting changes and meeting Mrs. Rhone-Bush.

Invite your Landings neighbors to attend.

WELCOME New Mentors!

On September 18 we welcomed over 30 new mentors who came to the orientation session. Laura Wehrle described the background and mission of L.O.V.E. and its relationship to the schools and district. Dan Malachuk gave the new volunteers an idea of what they could expect the first day they met their students at school. He gave some insight into the lives of children in Title 1 schools. Ginny Pierce reviewed the Training Manual and explained the many resources mentors can use when they work with student. New mentors left the session with

their yellow L.O.V.E. bag, their name tag, and the knowledge they would be supported by their Site Director and L.O.V.E. Mentors.



(From left) Dan Malachuk, Ginny Pierce, and Laura Wehrle conducted the new mentor orientation session.



Over 30 new mentors attended the orientation session on September 18.

Introducing Our New Superintendent Of Schools

Dr. M. Ann Levett is a native of Savannah and a proud product of the local school system. She served in the position of Chief Academic Officer of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools (SCCPSS) from 2013 to 2017. She also worked in the capacity of Deputy Superintendent of schools before being selected as Superintendent beginning June 1, 2017. She believes that each student can achieve great things and that it is the responsibility of us all to provide personalized, high-quality instruction in a caring and welcoming environment.

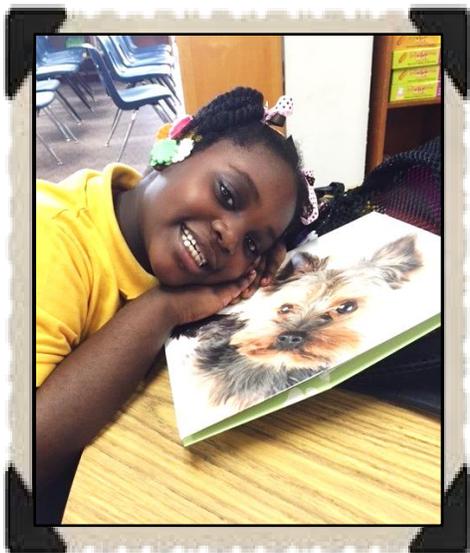
This summer Dr. Levett met with some members of the L.O.V.E. board and enthusiastically supports our work. She said that she would like as much one on one mentoring time as we can give to the students. Her team would like us have as many mentors as possible in our 10 schools. She has committed to working closely to make the volunteer-school relationship work smoothly.



M. Ann Levett, Ed.D.

What Should I Do On The First Day I Meet The Student?

The first day a mentor meets with a new student can be a bit tense. The child may be very nervous and not used to talking with an adult. It is wise to use this time to let the child know that you are there to be a special person in their life. The L.O.V.E. Manual has several “Getting to Know You” forms that are good ways to lead the child to talk about himself. The student may be reluctant to talk about personal things, so don’t push.



Kimora and her folder

Sometimes they like to draw pictures to represent their family or some of their favorite things. You might try to set a goal with the student like reading 20 books with you over the course of the year. It’s a good idea to find out their current Lexile Level.

Kids really like a special folder that you will bring each week to hold their work, books and other projects. Relax and enjoy this time with your new student and you will be off to a good start.

Letters To Teacher & Parents On Yellow Paper



In your new Manual, or in packages for returning mentors, you will find 3 letters on yellow paper. One letter is for the classroom teacher and the other two are for the parents (one to keep and one to be returned to you). Each letter explains who you are, when you will be mentoring each week and how to contact you. Parent letters go home via the homework folder. PLEASE FILL OUT THE LETTERS AND PASS THEM TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHER.

What Is Operation Beacon?

Operation Beacon is an SCCPSS wide Volunteer Program. SCCPSS is using the county Beacon background check system



to complete L.O.V.E. background checks. SCCPSS now requires complete criminal background check including fingerprints and viewing of a 12 minute “mandatory reporting” video for any in-school volunteer. Your Site Director will give you more details about how to comply with the requirements.

Mentors Are Mandatory Reporters

All mentors must comply with the Mandatory Reporting requirements for suspected child abuse. This is covered in detail in the video for Operation Beacon. If a child says something or if you see some physical evidence that suggests the child might be in trouble, you must report this to the principal or counselor. Do not ask the child any further questions about the situation, just tell them this is information you should report to the appropriate person. The professional staff will handle it from there. Do not, under any circumstances, try to intervene.



Summer Camp A Huge Success

Over 100 L.O.V.E. children say, “THANK YOU” for sending them to summer camp this year. It was a year of firsts. The first time over 100 children registered to attend one of the L.O.V.E. summer camps. The first time Gould Elementary children participated in the program. The first time a school (Gadsden) sent 30 children to camp. It was no coincidence that these results took



place the first year we had dedicated volunteers at each school coordinating and managing the camp registration process. And so, thank you to: James Bolfik at East Broad, Emily Miller at Haven, Judy Moore at Low, Ginny Donaldson at Pulaski, Nancy Boyd at Spencer, Bill Monroe at Gadsden, Erica Fleet at Gould, Betsy Hines at IOH, and Joy Isaacs at Windsor Forrest. As usual, it was a team effort and one that each of our mentors can be proud.



L.O.V.E. believes that improving a child's education is the foundation for improving quality of life. Classroom teachers have little opportunity to work one-on-one with students. L.O.V.E. provides this benefit to students.

Board of Directors

The ultimate goal of L.O.V.E. MENTORS is to work in partnership with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools to improve education and support the dreams of Savannah's children.

The L.O.V.E. Officers for 2017-2018 are:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Karen Lindholm |
| Vice Chair & Treasurer | Laura Wehrle |
| Secretary/ Technology | Samantha Lambert |
| Publicity Director | Carol Fallon |
| Mentor Support | Ginny Pierce |
| Recruiting Director..... | Dan Malachuk |
| Camp Director & Mentor Training..... | Erica Flett |
| At Large | Bill Monroe |

Schools

At the current time, L.O.V.E. Mentors serves 10 Title I schools in the SCCPSS.

| SCHOOLS | L.O.V.E. SITE DIRECTOR |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| East Broad..... | Pat Cox |
| Gadsden | Bill Monroe |
| Gould..... | Kathy Vaile |
| Haven | Holly Kenreich |
| Hodge | Barb Stuck |
| Isle of Hope | Betsy Hines |
| Low..... | Ginny Pierce |
| Pulaski | Ginny Donaldson |
| Spencer..... | Nancy Boyd |
| Windsor Forest..... | Karen Lindholm |

Thank You For Helping Children Learn

