

JOURNAL



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Robeson County's Weekly Newspaper, Published Every Wednesday

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SMOOTH TAKE-OFF



This duck shows how easy it is to take-off with elegance and grace.

SINGING SENSATION

Official launch of "Read to Succeed"

by R.J. Walker

On Monday, August 9 Exploration Station, a non-profit children's hands-on learning center, partnered with Golden Corral, Buffet & Catering of Lumberton and launched "Read To Succeed". Read To Succeed is a program designed to encourage and reward children, ages 4-12, to

ments, all were welcome.

Stacie Kinlaw, Executive Director, Exploration Station explained the program, "Read To Succeed consists of a Reading Record Bookmark to record a child's reading of 10 books and a verifying signature. The Bookmark can then be redeemed at an Exploration Station's monthly Story-time



Board members, and those responsible.

read. The launch took place at Exploration Station located at 104 North Chestnut Street, in downtown historic Lumberton, from 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. Golden Corral of Lumberton's Catering Services provided light refresh-

for an Achievement Certificate, good for a Free Kid's Buffet Meal at Golden Corral, Buffet & Catering of Lumberton. As part of the Read To Succeed program Golden Corral has also agreed to spon
See read on page 7



Huggins and her ace piano student.



A pair of cute smurfettes.



Is this the new Dance Fever?

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Read

sor Exploration Station's monthly Story-times by providing refreshments, newspaper announcements, posters, and bookmarks. The Read To Succeed program will run from August 2010 through May 2011."

Mrs. Kinlaw went on to explain the added value of Exploration Station's partnership with Golden Corral of Lumberton, "Through this partnership with Golden Corral, we will be able to reach beyond the doors of Exploration Station to encourage reading in young children through partnering with local area schools and increased marketing power, materials, and resources. The chil-

dren of our area will reap the benefits of learning through increased reading, opportunities for achievement and recognition, and experience the magic of learning at Exploration Station Hands On Learning Center.

READING is an important foundation to learning which is key to the mission of Exploration Station - to provide learning opportunities for children. This reward based program to encourage children to read more is a new valuable program offering at Exploration Station. We are still identifying potential schools and venues to provide the tools and materials to grow and stretch our reach to the community which is

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a great opportunity for us.

We are excited to partner with our local Golden Corral to launch Read To Succeed, and look forward to working with them throughout the school year to ensure its success! As a small, non-profit organization, it is vital that we have friends like Golden Corral and other local businesses and civic organizations to work with in building programs and benefits for our community to ensure that efforts and strategies are cost effective, but yielding great rewards."

For additional information on Exploration Station visit <http://www.explorationkids.com> or call (910) 738-1114



A pair of cute smurfettes.



Is this the new Dance Fever?

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STAFF PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNGER

Victoria Huggins sings and dances with Exploration Station executive director Stacie Kinlaw, left, and children who attended the event to kick-off the 'Read to Succeed' program.

Kids satisfy reading appetite

Restaurant provides free food as incentive

AMANDA MUNGER
FEATURES EDITOR

LUMBERTON — Sixteen-year-old Victoria Huggins sang for a crowd of children and parents at the Exploration Station last week as part of a kick-off event for the Read to Succeed program.

But before her performance, the words came a little slower as she spoke about the value of reading.

"The only thing I like more than reading is singing and eating," she said during the Monday event. "I always say I'll sing for food. Now you guys will be reading for food."

The program, which continues until May 2011, rewards children ages 4 to 12 for reading books by providing them with certificates for free food at Golden Corral.

"This partnership with Golden Corral allows us to reach beyond the doors of the Exploration Station," said Stacie Kinlaw, the executive director. "It will offer children increased opportunities for achievement and recognition, and they'll experience the magic of learning at the Exploration Station."

Participating children keep track of the number of books read on a bookmark, get it signed by an adult, and then turn it in at monthly storytimes at Exploration Station to win a certificate. Ten books read earns a single certificate, which entitles the child to a free children's buffet at Golden Corral.

Bookmarks can be picked up at Exploration Station or the participating schools, Roland Norment Elementary, Magnolia Elementary, Pembroke Elementary and Prospect Elementary.

Storytime is held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the station on the fourth Thursday of every month, beginning on Sept. 23.

Golden Corral Buffet & Catering, which is at the intersection of Kahn Boulevard and

Liberty Hill Road, provided refreshments at the kick-off event and will do so at the storytimes. The restaurant also paid for the bookmarks and fliers promoting the program.

"We see a need for children's education and want to support this program," said Dalton Stocks, the owner of the Lumberton restaurant. "All the things we support are about children's education. We have three kids and it really touches our hearts."

Kinlaw hopes to make the program an annual event.

Mickie McNeil, of Lumberton, was at the event with her 4-year-old daughter Lydia, 10-year-old son Nicholas, and her 12-year-old nephew Austin. Nicholas loves adventure books, while Austin enjoys basketball books.

Lydia will be starting kindergarten in the fall.

"She can't read yet, but she likes to be read to," McNeil said.

The program allows for that scenario.

McNeil is confident the program will work with her children.

"I think it will be a good incentive to get them to read, since they like to eat," she said.

Rhonda Faircloth said the program sends an important message.

"I think that reading is the foundation to all learning," she said. "If you don't know how to read, you aren't going to be able to succeed."

Faircloth brought her grandsons, 5-year-old Christopher Faircloth and 6-year-old Christian Harris.

Between songs, Huggins told the children about her love of reading and said her favorite book is "Little Women." She said that reading is fun because it allows readers to use their imaginations.

"We are as much a part of the story as the characters are," she said.



Exploration Station board members, along with others who helped with the program's kick-off, including Mickey Gregory, left, Brooke Hardee, Beth Collins, Tarra Hardin, Stacie Kinlaw, Christy and Dalton Stocks, owners of Golden Corral, Kellie Blue, Crystal and Amanda, servers from Golden Corral, Victoria Huggins, and Bob Fisher, pause for a picture.