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Happy 2018 - Go behind the scenes with Reading Partners

Karine Apollon [karine.apollon@readingpartners.org]

Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 11:01 AM

To: Steve Johnston

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VOLUNTEER

DONATE

Happy 2018 to the entire Reading Partners community,

I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating holiday season with family, friends, and a good book or two! We're excited to get back to work in reading centers across the country as we enter the second half of the school year.

January is National Mentoring Month, and this year we aim to inspire people to make [Resolutions for Reading](#) by providing students in under-resourced schools with the tutoring and mentorship they need to become proficient readers by fourth grade. You can help by telling your family and friends about your own experience with Reading Partners or by sharing our [new video](#) (above) which shows the magic that takes place in our 200+ reading centers every single day.

**Our volunteer-base is growing strong**



Halfway through the school year, we have already enrolled 80 percent of the nearly 11,000 students we plan to serve, so we have strong momentum. As we enter our last big phase of volunteer recruitment for this school year, we still need roughly 2,500 volunteers across all of our 14 regions. Please help us spread the word about our mission so we can engage more community volunteers who will help empower kids to succeed in school and life through the power of literacy. A great place to start is by sharing our new video.

**WATCH & SHARE**

**Looking ahead to Reading Partners' next strategic plan**

We are now beyond the halfway point of a five-month strategic planning process led by [The Bridgespan Group](#), a leading consultant group working with mission driven organizations. The process has been designed to help clarify our long-term aspirations, establish stronger guidelines for more efficiently and effectively supporting regional operations, and set us on a path to continued financial sustainability. We have engaged a diverse range of staff, board members, district/school customers, funders, and peer organizations over the past few months. In January, we will further refine our focus and goals as we seek to close out our planning work by mid-February. I look forward to sharing details about our final strategic plan in the months to come. I also look forward to sharing with you in the months ahead our FY17 annual report, highlighting a clean audit and compelling profiles of students, volunteers and community partners, and celebrating the incredible generosity of the donors who fuel our work.

**New! Reading Partners store**



In addition to the new video, I am also thrilled to share that, in response to popular demand, we have launched our official [Reading Partners store](#) where you can purchase branded apparel and other products to show your Reading Partners pride. As an added bonus, a portion of each purchase will support our

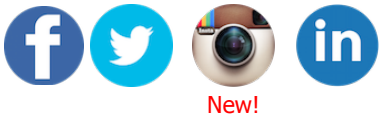
work as we aim to reach as many struggling readers as possible.

START SHOPPING

In this season of resolutions, I hope you all will continue to make significant contributions to your local communities in the year ahead through Reading Partners and other organizations that are meaningful to you. As we broaden and deepen our student impact in the back half of the school year, I want to thank every member of this community for being part of a movement that is helping more than 11,000 students grow their confidence and skills in reading.



Karine Apollon  
CEO, Reading Partners



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