

# for immediate release

## MEDIA CONTACT:

Christina Weyrick-Cooper  
Community Relations Manager  
330.499.4712 x331  
ccooper@northcantonlibrary.org

### *North Canton City Schools, in collaboration with the North Canton Public Library and Walsh University to offer literacy training program for parents of children in kindergarten through second grade.*

October 15, 2013 North Canton, OH – The North Canton City Schools, North Canton Public Library and Walsh University submitted a joint application to receive an Early Literacy and Reading Readiness Grant from the Ohio Department of Education. The North Canton consortium was selected to receive the grant, which provides an opportunity for districts and community schools to pursue funding from a pool of \$13 million. In total, 248 applications were submitted throughout Ohio with 91 being selected to receive funding.

The grant is an effort by the Ohio Department of Education to support the design and implementation of innovative K-3 early literacy concepts and strategies, with an ultimate goal of preparing students to read at grade level by the end of third grade, in conjunction with the state's new Third Grade Reading Guarantee legislation.

The Ohio Department of Education website offers parents and educators several resources for understanding the legislation. According to [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) (<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee-Family-Resources>):

#### **How it Works**

In kindergarten through grade three, schools will evaluate all children to determine if they are reading as well as they should be. If a child appears to be falling behind in reading, the school will immediately start a reading improvement plan.

Reading Improvement Plan - This plan will address each student's unique reading problems. Schools will monitor the plan to make sure the student's reading is improving.

Schools will work closely with parents to help create a remedy and for parents to be able to support the plan.

#### **Advancing to Fourth Grade**

Except for students with special circumstances, students must meet a minimum score on the state reading test to move on to the fourth grade. In 2013-2014, the minimum score for advancement is 392. This score must be attained either in the Fall or Spring administration of the state reading test.

If the student remains in the third grade, the school must provide a high-performing reading teacher and 90 minutes of reading instruction each school day.

A student can still take fourth grade classes in all other subjects, if the student is ready.

Schools can move students to the fourth grade in the middle of the year, if the student's reading improves.

-more-

**How it Helps**

Studies on Florida's version of the Third Grade Guarantee show that students who remained in the third grade and received intensive reading instruction, improved dramatically in overall school performance in years following.

To help students meet this reading standard, the North Canton consortium proposed a program utilizing hands-on arts and multi-sensory language with parental involvement. The multi-faceted program includes a series of literacy nights that will launch Wednesday, October 23 for parents and children in kindergarten through second grade in the North Canton City School district. The October 23 program runs from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., and is the first in a series of four parent/student literacy nights, each focusing on a different concept.

The October 23 program will focus on early literacy resources available through the North Canton Public Library. The evening's agenda includes an overview of the grant program, an introduction to special book/activity kits that will be available specifically for this program, information about free reading kits, a demonstration of ways to use art to promote literacy and an overview of library resources. Children will complete fun literacy activities with Walsh University education students while parents attend the literacy program. Prizes and refreshments will be available to all attendees.

Attendance is limited to 60 adults and 40 children. Parents must register in by 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 22 as follows:

Clearmount Elementary Students <http://cl.northcantonschools.org>

Northwood Elementary Students <http://nw.northcantonschools.org>

For additional information, please contact Angela Smith at 330.499.5668 or [ams1nc@northcantonschools.org](mailto:ams1nc@northcantonschools.org)

###