

BANGOR CELEBRATES COMMUNITY READING DAY

by Mark D. Roth, School Psychological Service Provider

The Bangor Schools' ninth annual Community Reading Day, held on April 16, was a great success. Over 100 K-5 classrooms participated in this year's program. Community volunteers read books selected by classroom teachers in each classroom, K-5. The book read becomes part of the classroom library complete with a Children's Fund bookplate to identify the source of this year's funding.

This year, the Children's Fund of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) funded the purchase of books. NASP also featured Bangor's Community Reading Day in its Annual Report.

Many community volunteer

readers have participated in the Community Reading Day over the years including athletes and coaches from the University of Maine, the Mayor of Bangor, members of the City Council and School Committee, physicians, judges, and parents.

This year, the Mary Snow School honored everyday heroes. Readers for their classrooms were individuals from the Bangor Police and Fire Departments and the Air National Guard.

Readers across other schools included Martha Newman, Chair of the Bangor School Committee, Frank Hackett, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Mark Torres, Artistic Director of the Penobscot

Theatre Company and the Maine Shakespeare Festival, Bananas, the University of Maine mascot, Larry Mahoney, Sports Columnist for the Bangor Daily News, Tim Throckmorton, WABI Channel 5 Sports Director and many others.

The Bangor School Department is indebted to the many community volunteers who have given their time year after year. Special appreciation goes to the NASP Children's Fund and to Carole Smith, Mary Ann Perry, Patricia Johnston, Lorraine McQuarrie, Ruth Soucy, Rebecca Dauphinee, and Suzanne Walker, school librarians who did such a fine job in their building level coordination.

Abe Lincoln Celebrates Reading Day

by Bill Armstrong

In celebration of Community Reading Day the Abraham Lincoln School welcomed several local and state celebrities who shared the importance of reading in their lives with our students. The school community is very appreciative for their participation in this event.

The day was a delightful success. Each classroom received a book that was signed, read, and presented by the visiting celebrity. The readers included Bangor Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert

Ervin, Bangor High School Chorus Director, George Redman; U.S. Representative Mike Michaud; WABI Channel 5 Sports Reporter, Tim Throckmorton; Parks and Land Conservation Department Director

for Northern Maine State Parks, Tim Hall; Bangor Daily News Sports Columnist, Larry Mahoney; Bangor Lumberjacks Baseball Team Field Manager and Retired Professional Baseball Player, Champ Beachum; Teacher and classroom friend, Fran Mitchell; Fields Pond Nature Conservancy Director, Judy Markowski; Penobscot Theatre Director, Mark Torres, and Brewer Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Meredith Pridham

Librarian Ruth Soucy and PTO chair, Pat Bears coordinated the Abraham Lincoln School Community Reading Day event. The Community Reading Day book purchases were made possible by a grant from National Association of School Psychologists. The grant proposal was written by Bangor School psychologist Mark Roth.

COMMUNITY READERS: Celebrity volunteers joined Bangor K-5 classrooms as guest readers on Community Reading Day. Guests included US Representative Mike Michaud (top), Lanie Witt, News Reporter for WABI Channel 5, (above, middle), and Fields Pond Nature Conservancy Director, Judy Markowski.

Love for Reading Spans Generations

by Ms. Carter, Mrs. Gallant, Mrs. Small, and Mrs. Young

Third graders at Fruit Street School have learned that a love for reading can last a lifetime due to the time and energy of four local senior citizens. Each month several residents of the Phillips-Strickland House have read stories to third grade classrooms.



Students in Mrs. Young's class enjoy a story read by Mrs. Hansen.

The program began last year in Ms. Carter's third grade class. After determining that the program should and could be expanded, Mrs. Nickerson found more volunteers who were willing and able to read to our classes.

Throughout the year regular readers were Mrs. Rita Spaulding, Mrs. Jeem Trowbridge, former Bangor High School English teacher, and Mrs. Teresa Hansen, a former third grade teacher. Several other residents from the House have "pinch hit" when needed. At our last reading visit "the seniors" told the students they would miss them and that they had enjoyed coming and reading to them.

The teachers believe that both the students and the residents benefit from being able to spend time with each other, and they have every intention of continuing with the program next fall.



READERS? In celebration of Community Reading Day, 2nd grade students at Abe Lincoln (at left) shared traditional tales through song, instruments, dramatization, and puppets with visiting friends from Downeast School. Mrs. Rice's students presented "The Gingerbread Boy"; Mrs. Belton's students performed "Chicken Little"; and Mrs. Shepley's class offered "The Magic Fish".

