## Important dates:

Applications due: Fri., May 11

## Interviews (mandatory for new BBs), choose one:

- Thursday 5/10
- Monday 5/14
- Tuesday 5/15

## Volunteer training (mandatory for new BBs), choose one:

- Tuesday 5/22, 4:00-7:00 (with dinner)
- Thursday 5/31, 4:00-7:00 (with dinner)

#### Sessions (choose one or two):

- Mondays at Sanchez Elementary 12:15-2:45, June 11-July 9 (work with one LB for an hour, then another LB for an hour)
- **Tuesdays** at Lafayette Public Library 4:00-5:15, June 5-July 31 (no meeting 7/3)
- Thursdays at Lafayette Public Library 6:00-7:15, June 7-August 2 (no meeting 7/5)

The last day of each session: Presentations & prizes! Families welcome.

Please save the date: Big Buddy Awards Ceremony, Sunday, August 5, 2:00-4:00

**Questions?** Contact Sarah at sarahd@cityoflafayette.com or call 303-665-5200, ext. 3813 http://tinyurl.com/readingbuddies



Summer 2011 young writers and their teen mentor

# What about Writing Buddies?

- Previous Big Buddies who are high school students may apply to be mentors to 4th-6th graders in the summer Writing Buddies program.
- Please attach a paragraph or two to your application explaining your writing experience, why
  you are interested in Writing Buddies, and what
  you can bring to this program.
- Six to eight volunteers will be chosen to be Writing Big Buddies.
- Writing Buddies takes place at the Lafayette Public Library on Thursdays, 4:00-5:15, June 7 through August 2 (no meeting 7/5).

"It makes

me feel like

I am

making a

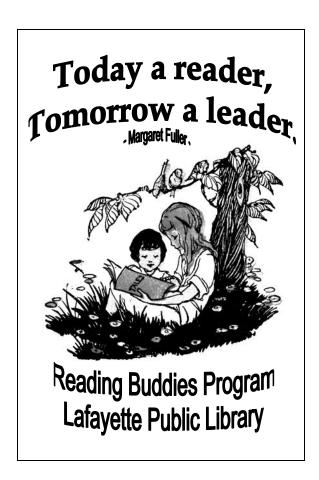
difference
in the

Lafayette Public Library
775 West Baseline Road
Lafayette, CO 80026
303-665-5200 x3813
http://cityoflafayette.com/library

world." —Big Buddy, Fall 2011

# Big Buddy Volunteer Application

(students in grades 7-12)



Summer 2012

## What's a Big Buddy?

Big Buddies are trained volunteers who will be in grades 7-12 who meet one-on-one with a younger child (their Little Buddy) once a week to take turns reading together, play games, and do reading-related activities.

#### Big Buddies:

- Are students who love books, enjoy reading aloud, and like to spend time with children.
- Become a mentor and friend to a younger child.
- Share books with their Little Buddies to show that reading is fun!

### What's in it for me?

- A great volunteer experience that you can put on your résumé or college application, along with the possibility of recommendation letters from the coordinator.
- The opportunity to get to know other teens, plus leadership opportunities for those who serve as Assistant Coordinator or Big Buddies for Writing Buddies.
- The joy of helping a younger child read and succeed.
- Prizes and recognition from the Library such as books, t-shirts, meals, amnesty from library fines, the RB Handbook, and parties.

### What do Reading Buddies do?

- The first three-hour meeting will be time spent training and getting to know the other Big Buddies (meal included!).
- Next, you will meet all the Little Buddies and do some icebreakers, group activities, and shared reading.
- In subsequent meetings, Buddy pairs will read one-on-one for about 45 minutes, and then will come together as a group to do an entertaining 15-minute literacy enrichment activity. Big Buddies meet for additional ongoing training and planning for 15 minutes after their Little Buddies leave.
- The group activities will culminate in a project or product to share with parents, such as a play, a poetry reading, a game show, or a blog. At this final meeting, all Buddies will receive certificates of participation and books.



Fall 2011 Big Buddies at Sanchez Elementary

"I love this program and plan on volunteering as a Big Buddy for the rest of my high school career." — six-year veteran Big Buddy

# What opportunities are available for experienced BBs?

- Previous BBs can serve as Assistant Coordinators. They will take on additional responsibilities, including setting up and cleaning up, training and mentoring new Big Buddies, and planning activities. All ACs must help plan and carry out one training session. They will receive additional incentives at the end of the program.
- Previous BBs in 9th grade and up can become BBs for our summer Writing Buddies program. They will help plan the sessions, lead whole-group creative writing activities, and work with LBs in small groups.

## I'm interested— What next?

- Fill out the application online or at the library by **Friday, May 11, 2012.**
- Sign up for one or more sessions (specific dates and times on next page).
- Attend an interview and the mandatory training for new volunteers.
- Commit to attending every week and arriving on time, unless the coordinator and your LB are notified in advance.

Note: Responsible sixth graders may apply to participate as Big-Buddies-in-Training. They will shadow experienced Big Buddies rather than be assigned their own Little Buddy. Contact the coordinator for more details and an application.