



# RAP

## The Read Aloud Program

**RAP, The Read Aloud Program**, is a simple, direct family program that promotes parents reading aloud to children and helps families spend time together, share good books and build a lifelong love of reading.

**RAP families take time out** from busy schedules to attend the full program of six-sessions or the Mini RAP Programs which is one evening only at a school. After short introductory activities, the students gather in age-level groups to listen to volunteers read stories. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and caregivers stay in the cafeteria with the RAP presenter and relax as they listen to stories, reading tips, and chapter books. RAP provides free snacks, drinks, and a light dinner, and the evening ends with door prizes and a party atmosphere.

**RAP is designed for families** with children from toddlers to teens. The program takes the stress out of reading. The sessions are relaxed and enjoyable. Adults and children all experience the power and pleasure of being read to. RAP focuses on success. At RAP sessions, there are no tests, quizzes, or reports. Reading is fun.

### **RAP has five goals:**

1. Encourage parents\* and teachers to read aloud to children on a regular basis.
2. Provide resources to help parents and teachers choose books and read to children.
3. Demonstrate the pleasure of reading and its relevance to daily life.
4. Nurture a love of reading in parents and awaken a love of reading in children.
5. Encourage families to limit television, computer, and screen time and **read**.

*\*The term "parents" includes parents, grandparents, relatives, or other caregivers.*

**The program begins at 5:30**, after school programs have ended for the day. RAP provides short, simple handouts with tips on reading aloud.

### **The RAP schedule:**

5:30 - 6:00	Sign in, snacks, drinks, and family time
6:00 - 6:20	Short, fun, introductory activities
6:20 - 7:10	Children read with RAP volunteers; adults stay with the RAP presenter in the cafeteria
7:10 - 7:30	Light dinner is served
7:30 - 7:45	Door prizes and books awarded

### **Read Aloud America Board of Directors**

*Jed Gaines  
Founder, President*

*James R. Harstad  
Vice-President*

*Natalie Mun-Takata  
Secretary*

*Charman Akina, M.D.  
Treasurer*

*Chris Kanazawa  
Director*

---

*Joanne Laird  
Program Director  
Curriculum*

*Larry Laird  
Program Director  
Operations & Grants*

**RAP brings communities together.** Schools, businesses, community organizations, and individuals join together to create a fun event that supports children's learning and benefits all who are involved.

**Families benefit** because RAP:

1. Promotes closeness and communication
2. Gets children interested in books
3. Helps adults choose books and find reading help
4. Increases children's chances for success in school

**Schools benefit** because RAP:

1. Increases students interest in reading
2. Gets parents involved in their children's education
3. Utilizes school facilities for community enrichment
4. Makes students feel more positive about school

**Communities benefit** because RAP:

1. Brings families together in an atmosphere of fun and learning
2. Involves community agencies and individuals in supporting education
3. Helps create lifelong readers and leaders
4. Helps create a community of informed citizens and literate workers

**RAP leaders** pay attention to feedback from teachers, parents, and students. They evaluate the program constantly and make changes when necessary to keep it up-to-date and rewarding for the people who participate. RAP is a dynamic program that responds to the needs of families and schools.

**To learn more** about RAP or find out how to start the program at your school, contact Jed Gaines:

Phone: (808) 531-1985  
Cell: (808) 224-1727  
Email: [jedgaines@readaloudamerica.org](mailto:jedgaines@readaloudamerica.org)

**To become** a RAP volunteer, please sign up online at:

[http://www.readaloudamerica.org/volunteer\\_ops.htm](http://www.readaloudamerica.org/volunteer_ops.htm)

## Read Aloud America Mission Statement

Through the fun of reading and being read-to, Read Aloud America promotes literacy, bonds families, and builds communities of lifetime readers.

### Read Aloud America

#### Sponsors

Aloha Signs  
Aloha United Way  
Apple  
Atherton Family Foundation  
Barnes and Noble  
Basically Books  
Better World Books  
Bose Entertainment  
Central Pacific Bank  
City and County of Honolulu  
County of Hawai'i  
Dave & Buster's  
Domino's Pizza  
Elite Parking  
Enterprise Holdings  
First Hawaiian Foundation  
Fred Baldwin Memorial  
Foundation  
Foodland  
Friends of the Library of  
Hawai'i  
Frito-Lay of Hawaii  
General Atlantic Corporation  
Hagadone Publishing  
Hawaii Community Foundation  
Hawaii Self Storage  
Hilo Naniloa Hotel  
Honda Windward  
Ingram Books  
J&S Designs (Maui)  
Jams World  
Kenjo Inc.  
Lego  
Lex Brodie's Tire Company  
McInerney Foundation  
Macy's  
McKinley Car Wash  
Mutual Publishing  
MW Group  
Outrigger Enterprises  
Papa John's Hawaii  
Pepsi-Cola Hawaii  
Peterson Sign Company  
Professional Image  
Public Schools of Hawai'i  
Punahou School  
Reading is Fundamental (RIF)  
Rotary Clubs of Hawai'i  
Savers  
Target  
Watumull Foundation  
Whole Foods Markets  
World Book, Inc.