Around the Parish

FEBRUARY 2024
Super Tax Day
FORUM 225 OPENS NEW COMMUNITY PANTRY AND RESOURCE SHED IN NORTH BATON ROUGE
Judge Pitcher

Breaking Barriers: A View from the Bench

Wednesday, February 21
6 PM
Main Library @ Goodwood

Special Collections Lecture Series
Libraries Change Lives

February Feature:
Michelle Champagne
La Belle Aire Elementary School Librarian

English and Spanish. Students may keep these books as their own and are encouraged to share what they liked or disliked about their chosen books at the next Home Library Project program. As the librarian at a participating school, Michelle sees firsthand the positive responses of the students when given the opportunity to build their own home library. “The Home Library Project is giving them ownership of what they want to read. They get to choose it, they get to keep it, and it’s theirs forever.” The students take this ownership seriously; many of them hold close their books by storing them in their backpacks to keep them safe and looking new.

The program motivates the kids to choose books that they are actively interested in which sparks discussions with Michelle in the school library. One such conversation Michelle shares was with a student from a native Spanish-speaking family who chose a book in Spanish from the Home Library Project. “The child expressed to me with great emotion that her mom had read the book to her at home. That was the first time her mom had been able to read a book to her child.”

Michelle hopes that students continue to read in order to further their education beyond school and into the future. “I always tell my students that people can take things from you in life, but they can never take away your education.” Michelle instills in her students that education is important to both them and their families. “The Home Library Project motivates students to read and enjoy books which is instrumental in creating lifelong learners.”

Special thanks to Michelle Champagne for sharing her story with us!

Third-graders at La Belle Aire Elementary enjoy a storytime and choose books for their home libraries.
Building a Culture of Literacy in the Home

Continuing its focus on literacy, a new cohort of children “graduated” from 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, which enrolled 646 new participants and logged 49,496 books.

The Reading is Elementary program enrolled 511 children, and the Literacy Calendar has expanded to Spanish.

Beanstack’s virtual Summer Reading Club platform extended activities throughout the year. Staff presented 2,392 storytimes to almost 53,000 attendees.

The Press Start! Ready, Set, Read! Initiative continued at all branches.

Library staff continued the Home Library Pilot Project working with at-risk 3rd graders at six schools.
Staff Training Day
The Library began implementing tasks included in its Strategic Plan in 2023.

Thousands of patrons participated in the Facilities Master Plan Survey in summer 2023.

Work will continue into 2024.

Library patrons reserved 172,772 items in 2023.

In preparation for the new ACT 436, the Collection Development Policy was revised, new card categories were added, and the Library went Fine Free.
Virtual Author Talk Series

Remember – Author Talks are archived at library.org/ebrpl
Dr. Curtis Chastain provides best practices for executive health in the February episode of Strictly Business

By Business Report Staff

How important is health and wellness to executive performance? How can busy executives balance their work commitments with self-care routines to improve their overall well-being? Add what are the best practices for managing stress in the workplace and how can executives build resilience?

These are some of the topics Dr. Curtis Chastain will tackle in the February episode of Business Report’s Strictly Business series with business leaders across the Capital Region.

The episode, which airs at 11 a.m. Feb. 21, takes a deep dive into the best practices for executive health and how closely it’s linked to the success of a company. Register here.
Announcing:
One Book
One Community
Max Miller’s
Tasting History

KICKOFF PARTY
Friday, March 8
5-7 p.m.
Main Library at Goodwood

Join us this spring for
our 18th Annual
One Book One Community
series celebrating cultures
and cuisine with Max Miller’s
Tasting History!

For more information about
this year’s OBOC selection and
a full schedule of events, visit
ReadOneBook.org

Join us at the Kickoff
Fun for the whole family!
Bookmobile and Outreach Services phones are down due to construction. See how to contact us.