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## CEDARBRIDGE DOUBLES LITERACY VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME, LAUNCHES NEW LIBRARY COLLECTION

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CedarBridge Academy's successful Community Literacy Volunteer Programme plans to significantly increase the number of reading tutors available to students with a gift that provides a volunteer appreciation initiative and professional literacy training from acclaimed partner, The Reading Clinic.

The Programme, which engages community volunteers in helping CedarBridge students achieve their reading goals, is expected to double the amount of tutor recruits through the increased support.

The school has also significantly increased its reading programme with a new Accelerated Reader (AR) Library that adds thousands of new volumes of titles available to students. The AR programme is the centerpiece of CedarBridge's intensive literacy curriculum aimed at raising the reading skills of students to grade level or better. The new AR Library is part of a national Campaign, called Read•Write•Bermuda, that promotes reading, writing and literature on the Island.

“CedarBridge Academy and its reading specialists should be commended for creating a volunteer literacy program that is both an academically-rich resource for students and an excellent example of community partnerships,” said The Minister of Community, Culture and Sports, The Hon Pat Gordon-Pamplin, JP, MP. “Strengthening this programme with a gift from the Buechner Society is a win-win for all.”

The head of school, Principal Kalmar Richards, added, “The Community Literacy Volunteer Programme is an important part of our students’ journey to improved reading skills as well as a great way to engage the community in our work here at CedarBridge. This gift allows us to strengthen the Programme with professional training and provide support for those who give of their time and talents.”

Volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and experience including members of the police service, a university fraternity and the CEO of a radio station. CedarBridge recently hosted their annual “Toast For Change” Celebration and Appreciation Lunch with volunteers and their mentees.

The new and improved Literacy Volunteer Programme is supported by the Buechner Society of Bermuda, named after renowned author and theologian, Frederick Buechner, as a way to give back to Bermuda, his beloved childhood home. The initiative is a part of a national campaign called Read\*Write Bermuda, supported by the Buechner Society.

“Having grown up here as a child, Bermuda holds special meaning to me and continues to influence my perspective and my work,” said Frederick Buechner. “I am delighted to be able to give back to the island by partnering with those who share my love and appreciation for reading and writing.”

“Students read, write and learn differently due to a host of factors, including the resources that are available to them,” said Minister of Community, Culture and Sports, The Hon Pat Gordon-Pamplin, JP, MP “The new Accelerated Reading Library at CedarBridge Academy vastly improves the resources and materials that are available to reading students.”

Kalmar Richards, Principal of CedarBridge Academy, added, “It is critically important that all our students attain the literacy skills that will enable them to be successful now and in the future.”

“The transformation of our Accelerated Reader Library significantly improves our ability to make that happen for every CedarBridge student.”

The creation of an AR Library increases CedarBridge Academy’s AR book collection from 128 to more than 2,000 books. The new collection, which currently serves the Senior One students, will eventually serve all reading levels up to AR Grade 14. It includes more than 1800 E-books. This major expansion of AR material ensures that students have access to ample, appropriate reading material to challenge themselves and help them reach their reading goals.

As part of the expansion process, CedarBridge Librarian, Candace Seymour, surveyed students and faculty to identify other non-fiction and reference books to encourage pleasure reading and support the student’s scholastic efforts inside and outside of the classroom. These titles are included in the Library’s collection.

The new AR Library and additional titles were donated by the Buechner Society of Bermuda, named after renowned author and theologian, Frederick Buechner, as a way to give back to Bermuda, his beloved childhood home. The initiative is a part of a national campaign called Read•Write•Bermuda, supported by the Buechner Society.

The Campaign has established the Read•Write•Bermuda Campaign Fund at the Bermuda Community Foundation to raise funds in support of Bermuda’s readers, writers, and libraries. To donate, visit [www.readwritebermuda.bm/support](http://www.readwritebermuda.bm/support).

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