



PRESS RELEASE

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE 3rd BUFFALO SABRES LITERACY HUB

Buffalo, February 9, 2024 – The WNY Education Alliance is pleased to announce that the third Buffalo Sabres Literacy Hub will be opened at Persistence Preparatory Academy on Monday, February 12, 2024, as part of the WNY Literacy Initiative.

The Buffalo Sabres Foundation is supporting the WNY Literacy Initiative by donating literacy hubs to schools in Buffalo. The Buffalo Sabres Literacy Hubs will provide students in Buffalo with decodable books and resources that will complement the work being done in local schools to teach children to read using evidence-based instructional practices.

The Buffalo Sabres Literacy Hubs are being created and assisted operationally by Teach My Kid to Read, an education non-profit organization based in New York State and a partner in the WNY Literacy Initiative.

All students at Persistence Preparatory Academy will receive a copy of the book, *Who Will be King*, published by Whole Phonics. *Who Will be King* is a decodable book about ice hockey that has been customized to feature the Buffalo Sabres team and its fans. This represents the first time that a professional sports team has partnered with a decodable book publisher to highlight the importance of literacy and help students acquire the foundational skills needed to learn to read.

Tarja Parssinen, founder of WNY Education Alliance, commented: “We are excited about the opening of the third Buffalo Sabres Literacy Hub. The generous donation of literacy hubs by the Buffalo Sabres Foundation will support the efforts inside schools to provide students with the foundational skills required to learn to read. The innovative partnership between the Buffalo Sabres Foundation, Teach My Kid to Read, Whole Phonics, and local schools is a great example of stakeholders working together to improve educational outcomes for all student groups and raise awareness about the importance of literacy. We are truly thankful for all of the work that the Buffalo Sabres Foundation has done to promote literacy in Western New York through the literacy hubs and the release of the graphic novel series, *Sabres: Buffalo -vs- the Multiverse*.”



A press conference will be held at 2:15pm on Monday, February 12 at Persistence Preparatory Academy to discuss the launch of the literacy hub. Representatives from Persistence Preparatory Academy, the Buffalo Sabres Foundation, Teach My Kid to Read, and the Buffalo Mayor's Office will be speaking at the press conference.

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About (in alphabetic order):

Buffalo Sabres Foundation

The mission statement of the Buffalo Sabres Foundation is to identify and support organizations in Western New York which share our core objectives: serving children and military personnel, caring for the sick, assisting physically and mentally challenged athletes, and supporting youth hockey initiatives. By utilizing financial resources and community influence, the Buffalo Sabres Foundation assists these organizations and their beneficiaries in realizing their highest potential and succeeding in their endeavors.

Teach My Kid to Read

We are committed to creating awareness and providing education about how we learn to read and where the different resources fit, so librarians, parents and guardians are empowered to help more kids learn to read and discover the joy of reading.

Whole Phonics

Whole Phonics™ is a research-based, structured literacy program featuring decodable text. Beginning and striving readers join the delightful adventures of multicultural characters to learn critical phonics skills, while experiencing the joy of reading.

WNY Education Alliance

The WNY Education Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to improving education in the Western New York area through research and advocacy, community engagement, and strategic partnerships.

WNY Literacy Initiative

The WNY Literacy Initiative is a collaborative effort comprised of teachers, parent groups, community organizations, education non-profits, librarians, and literacy experts, including the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown and the City of Buffalo, the Buffalo NAACP, the Buffalo Police Athletic League, the Buffalo Sabres Foundation, the Buffalo Urban League, the Community Action Organization of WNY, Dyslexia Allies of WNY, Dyslexia Services of WNY, The Education Trust – New York, The Hoekelman Center for Health Beyond Medicine, the Ibero-American Action League, Literacy Buffalo Niagara, Monkey See, Monkey Do...Children's Bookstore, the Monroe County Library System, the National



Parents Union, Neuhaus Education Center, the New York State Network For Youth Success & the Afterschool Network of Western New York, The Niagara Frontier Reading Council, the Parent Network of Western New York, Project FLIGHT, The Reading League, Read to Succeed Buffalo, Say Yes Buffalo, Teach My Kid to Read, Villa Maria College, We the Parents of WNY, WNY Education Alliance, and the WNY Literacy Collaborative.

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