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## **BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB P.S. 152 New York, New York**

**T**he school district gives books to classrooms as part of its book-of-the-month program for teachers and students. The Action Team for Partnerships wanted to show parents how easy it is to support their children's reading, so they started a parents' Book-of-the-Month Club using the same books as the ones provided to the classrooms.

Each month at a special breakfast, the principal presented the book-of-the-month to parents. With parents gathered in the lunchroom, the principal introduced the book and read the first page. She then asked each parent to take a turn reading. When the parents finished reading the book, the principal demonstrated how to ask questions about the book's content that relate to the parent or child's real life.

The Action Team advertised the Book-of-the-Month Club by providing fliers and letters to students to take home to their parents. Parent leaders encouraged other parents to attend the monthly meetings. At Community Literacy Network meetings, partners also promoted the Book-of-the-Month Club with a range of neighborhood leaders. There was no cost for the club since community partners such as Unidos Inwood Coalition provided photocopies of the books, and the PTA provided the refreshments.

The Book-of-the-Month Club met at

least six times during the school year with approximately 22 parents attending. The principal said she is already prepared to do the club again, because parents learned how easy it is to read to their children in ways that help comprehension. The parents said that they enjoyed the reading and appreciated that the principal modeled how to read at home with their children. Parents also liked the good communication between themselves and the principal. Next year, the Action Team will have enough materials ready and will look into sponsorships to purchase real copies of the books.

*Rosa Sanchez, LINC Coordinator*  
(212) 620-5462  
rsanchez@lincnyc.org