



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 20, 2006

"I CAN READ" CEREMONY SLATED FOR JANUARY 26TH

WHO: THE ROGER BACON ACADEMY ~ CHARTER DAY SCHOOL
WHAT: "I CAN READ!" AWARD CEREMONY
WHEN: JANUARY 26, 2006; 1:45 P.M.
WHERE: RBA-CDS CAMPUS QUAD
WHY: CELEBRATING READING ACHIEVEMENT OF 37 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

"Our *tiniest* students reach a *huge* milestone in their first year at RBA-CDS," says Mark Cramer, Headmaster of The Roger Bacon Academy ~ Charter Day School. This milestone - learning to read - is celebrated with a special awards ceremony. On January 26th, thirty-seven (37) kindergartens will receive their "I Can Read!" certificates, signaling mastery of the basic skills needed for becoming good readers.

In what has become a tradition at the school, these 5 and 6 year-olds will mark this important achievement at what Mr. Cramer calls a "formal/informal event." Formal, because an orchestrated awards ceremony is held; informal because families are given ample time afterwards to recreate the "photo op" with the headmaster should their youngster have a sudden attack of the shys or the sillies during the ceremony. Throughout the event, proud parents and grandparents eagerly capture this singular occasion however they can. In addition to the certificate, the School also gives the children and their families the first reading book to have as a family keepsake.

All this fall and winter kindergartners at the school have been learning word attack skills and the combinations of sounds which enable them to read written words. The Reading Mastery (RM) curriculum at RBA-CDS includes pre-reading exercises, decoding tasks, symbol identification, rhyming games, and activities aiding in comprehension.

According to Headmaster Cramer, "Our reading program differs from other public schools. Many schools nation-wide do not actually provide explicit reading instruction to students. Instead, teachers encourage children to "explore" and "discover" books, hoping their students will spontaneously figure out how to read the words."

Lesson # 90 in the RBA-CDS RM curriculum signals mastery of the necessary basic skills and the beginning of the learning-to-read/reading-to-learn academic cycle. Some reading groups reach Lesson # 90 sooner than others, (the first "I Can Read!" ceremony was held in December) but by this time of year, all of the school's kindergarteners have reached that benchmark and are reading on their own.

The educational merits of the School's reading program are reflected in the results of national tests given in the spring. In 2005, kindergarten students at RBA-CDS scored in the top 10% in the entire nation in reading skills on the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-9).

The Roger Bacon Academy~ Charter Day School, serving children from New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Pender Counties, will offer **Kindergarten** through **8th** Grade next year, with an expected enrollment exceeding 700 students. The School has been honored by state's Board of Education for achieving "*Honor School of Excellence*" status. The School has also been recognized as a **Top-25 School** out of more than 1,850 K-8 schools throughout the state, for the academic growth of its students. It has met AYP goals established by the President's **No Child Left Behind** mandate for 3 consecutive years.

The School's 50-acre forested campus is located off Rte 74 at Rte 87 S, just 15 minutes from Wilmington.

#

Contact: Maggie O'Leary, Director of Development
The Roger Bacon Academy ~ Charter Day School
910.655.1214, ext. 106
maggie.oleary@charterdayschool.com

The School of Choice in the Cape Fear Region