

CITYWIDE PARTNERSHIP

Norwalk's littlest readers get library cards

Program offers library cards to every kindergarten student

By Kaitlyn Krasselt

NORWALK — The Norwalk Public Library and the Norwalk Public Schools Early Childhood department have partnered to offer every kindergarten student in Norwalk a library card.

"It's something the library has wanted to do for some time and this year it just happened to be the magical year that we made it happen," said NPL assistant director Sherrelle Harris.

All incoming kindergarten students in the district will receive the library card application in the information packets they receive prior to the start of the school year. The students will also receive copies of the children's book, "Lola at the Library."

Side By Side Charter School will also partner in the project.

Norwalk Public Library Director Christine Bradley echoed Harris' sentiments about the new program.

"It has long been a goal of the library's that every school child in Norwalk would have a library card," she said. "This is a giant step toward that goal."

The NPL card applications will continue to be part of kindergarten information packets every year.

Harris, who also serves on the Norwalk Board of Education, said the school district expressed enthusiasm about the partnership.

"They understand that schools and libraries should have partnerships, and why not start at the youngest grade," Harris said.

Once the application is completed, Harris said parents will need to bring proof of Norwalk residency and a photo ID to the library to receive the card, which can be used at both NPL branches.

Harris said the added benefit is the program will also get more parents into the library.

"Public library cards open up new worlds for the kids," Harris said. "It's

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Once students have their library card in Norwalk, the Connecticut library system allows the cards to be used at any library. Users just have to register their card at each additional library.

"It's a phenomenal statewide system," Harris said.

For additional information on the program, contact Harris at 203-899-2780, ext. 15123 or sharris@norwalkpubliclibrary.org.