

Urbana School District 116

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urbana School District Looks for Volunteers! *Public Plays a Vital Part in Education*

The 2008-09 school year is well underway in Urbana School District #116, but there is still time for the public to be involved in volunteering. District 116 is always looking for members of the public to be involved in volunteering and mentoring at all schools.

Kellie Anderson is the Community Connections Coordinator at Thomas Paine and Wiley Elementary Schools and she says volunteers can do a variety of things to help students. She explains, "There are a number of things our volunteers do. They might work one-on-one or in a small group with students on reading or math skills. They might help with a special project. They might help students in the computer lab or help on the playground or in the lunchroom. The library uses volunteers during and after school. If someone has a special skill, they are welcome to share it with our students. In addition, our CU One-to-One mentors spend one hour each week building their relationship with their mentee."

Anderson says volunteers provide vital help to teachers. She adds, "Our volunteer tutors enable the teacher to know that struggling students are getting extra one-on-one help for success. In addition, having extra hands in the classroom can allow the teacher to plan for some special opportunities for the students. While an excellent educator alone can plan and implement the curriculum, volunteers allow there to be a little icing on the cake. In addition, it is vitally important for our children to see that other adults from the community find their school to be a place of value, worthy of their time, and enjoyable to be at – without being paid!"

If members of the public wish to become a volunteer they should visit the Urbana School District #116 website at <http://www.usd116.org/home/volunteer.html> and call the school of their choice.

Members of the media wishing to discuss mentoring, please contact Kellie Anderson at 384-3602, or Barbara Linder at 337-0853.

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