

"But I don't want to leave!" Melanie yelled, her small 3 year old fists pounding her legs and her little sandaled foot stomping on the cafeteria floor in defiance. Her mom smiled, saying "Pero, tenemos que salir". We have to leave, taking her child by the hand and pulling her towards the door. Little Melanie was not happy, but as Coordinator for our Reading Connections Family Literacy Program, I was grinning from ear to ear. It was only the second night of our new program at Rankin Elementary, and if the kids were having so much fun that they didn't want to leave, then I knew their moms would bring them back for the next session. The 2016-2017 Family Literacy Program was starting off with a bang!

At Rankin, our brand new program, we have seen 10 adults and 15 children come regularly. In October we will begin our program at Hunter Elementary. With both the Rankin and Hunter Elementary programs running simultaneously, we hope to serve at least 25 adults and over 30 children between the months of September to December. In the Spring we will begin an additional program at Oak Hill Elementary in High Point, NC.

The purpose of our Family Literacy Program is to promote education and family health. We do this by teaching parents to read to their children, encouraging early literacy and English language skills. As parental English literacy improves, we can then empower parents to be involved in their child's education, creating more stable and healthy family units. Stable, healthy families lead to stable healthy communities. It is our hope that through the work of our Family Literacy Program we will see thriving families, and in turn, a thriving Greensboro/High Point community.

I am excited to see what the 2016-2017 Family Literacy Program will do for the families in our community, and can't wait to share the outcome with you later this year.

*Adriana Adams, Family Literacy Coordinator*