

DYNAMIC READING CAMP KEEPING LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SHARP IN READING

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Rivier College is helping local elementary school students improve their reading skills this summer through a fun and innovative on-campus program.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings throughout the month of July, Rivier College is hosting the Oceans of Fun Summer Reading Camp—the first-ever such reading camp to be held at the College. The camp helps students improve their reading skills and maintain their current academic progress through the summer.

Twenty students are participating this year. The students are rising second through fifth graders at Nashua's Sunset Heights Elementary School.

“Children, especially those who struggle with reading, are particularly vulnerable to losing progress in literacy skills over the summer because they are not in school and may not have the same support systems available to them as during the school year,” said Director of Elementary Education and Graduate Reading Programs **Kathleen McIlwain**, the camp's director. “By offering this educational program, we are enabling them to maintain current levels of progress and equipping them to get the upcoming school year off to a great start.”

Educational programming includes discussions, reading, games, presentations, and field trips, and revolves around a common theme. This year's theme is the ocean, and camp activities have focused on topics related to that.

Students are placed in instructional groups according to their needs.

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“It’s individually tailored to meet the specific needs of the children,” McIlwain said. “We think that’s what really counts in terms of meeting them where they are. We have to give them what they need.”

Participants attend the camp for free due to a partnership between Rivier College and the Nashua School District.

Educational programming is taught by Rivier College adjunct education faculty **Meg Bamford** and **Dr. Deb Uttero**. Numerous graduate education students intern at the camp.

“We hope to show they are making progress with some specific reading skills,” McIlwain said. ■

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