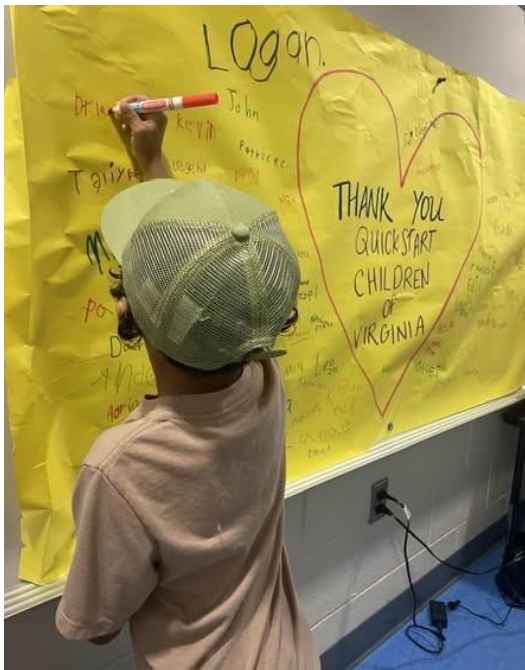




*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

BASF Grant Provides Summer Reading Books to 180 James River Elementary School Students

Williamsburg, Virginia (6/11/2026) – QuickStart Children of Virginia (QCV) is pleased to report that 180 kindergartners, first and second graders at James River Elementary School (JRES) in Williamsburg recently received books for summer reading thanks to a generous grant from BASF Corporation to our Racquets for Reading!!! initiative. JRES serves one of the most diverse and economically challenged student populations in Williamsburg-James City County. These books are intended to help reduce, and hopefully, prevent the “summer slide” in learning that so many kids experience. Research shows that access to books over the summer can prevent up to two months of reading loss for young learners.



Melissa Butler, soon-to-be-retired Reading Specialist at JRES, says, “Between state testing, field trips, Field Day, and other end of the year celebrations we were able to do the book give away with the students. The kiddos were so-o-o excited to pick their books. Many said it was the ‘best day ever!’ Thank you so much for applying for the generous grant for us from BASF. And thank you so much for providing this opportunity for the James River students.”



QCV Founder Lynda Harrill adds, “The kids at James River Elementary need a boost in reading, and BASF has made that possible by supporting Racquets for Reading!!! Their generosity has empowered teachers and reading

specialists to choose books that match their students' needs. Seeing all those *Pete the Cat* books on the table put a big smile on my face -- and I know they will bring many more smiles this summer.

"We are so grateful BASF stepped up for these children. THANK YOU!!! What an impact your generosity is going to have this summer in Williamsburg."

*Want to be a great adult?
Play tennis! Read books!
Eat healthy! Have FUN!!!
Be a QuickStart kid!*

QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc. (aka QuickStart Children of Virginia) is an all-volunteer, grassroots Community Tennis Association established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to promote, develop and grow QuickStart Tennis in Virginia for all beginners, especially underserved and at-risk youth, using the kid-sized QuickStart Tennis format. We leverage the fun of tennis to promote lifelong physical activity, healthy eating/lifestyle habits and a love of reading in the communities we serve. We believe early childhood literacy will solve many socioeconomic problems and produce kids who will succeed in school and in life.

Visit QCV at www.quickstartcentral.org and on [Facebook](#).

For additional information, contact quickstartcentral@comcast.net.



A racquet in every hand! A smile on every face!



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