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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

November 4, 2009

Books & Badges Returns to the St. Louis Police Academy
Reading Program Partners Police Recruits and Students

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”) announced the return of the *Books & Badges* reading program. *Books & Badges* is an innovative program which allows police recruits from the department’s police academy to positively interact with elementary students in St. Louis Public Schools. Recruits began working with students at three public schools on November 4, 2009, which marks the first time since May of 2008 that the department has participated in *Books & Badges*.

Books & Badges is the first reading program of its kind in the City of St. Louis that provides a unique learning experience for both children and police recruits. Recruits will read and write with students every other week for an hour for the duration of the training in the St. Louis Police Academy.

The goal of *Books & Badges* is to help improve reading and language art skills of elementary students while helping to promote and improve the image of police in the community by presenting police officers as positive role models for children.

Before their first visit to the schools, recruits receive training on how to read and write with students to help them be successful and effective reading partners.

Currently, there are 35 recruits participating in *Books & Badges* at Mullanphy, Oak Hill and Sigel Elementary Schools.

The *Books & Badges* program is the idea of literacy activist Karen Kalish, a dedicated mentor in the St. Louis Public Schools.

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