



REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

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27 students complete state reading program

Students at Regina Dominican have spent the past school year disproving a stereotype about their generation: that young Americans don't read. Some 93 students participated in Illinois' Read for a Lifetime program, and 27 completed the program by reading and writing reports on at least four of a list of books designated as pleasure reading. In all, the students submitted 132 book reports for the program.

Freshman Evisa Kalemaj topped the list of student readers by reading 14 of the designated books. She was followed by sophomore Latoya Winters, with eight books, and senior Kimberly Davis, with five books.

Also completing the program were: juniors Kathryn Bott and Ann Romei; sophomores Samantha Dieschbourg, Meaghan Johnson, Anjelica Milano, Anne Uselton and Reem Youkhana; and freshmen Colleen Barr, Annette Bochenek, Annice Coughlan, Lauren Gutierrez, Mia Gutsell, Cristina Hogan, Hannah Koch, Kelly Kukla, Maura Lakowski, Brigid Maniates, Katherine Nickle, Therese O'Brien, Colleen Pike, Katie Pins, Kelly Roderer, Courtney Sakas and Kimberly Schaefer.

These students will receive a certificate of accomplishment from the Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White, and a discount coupon from Waldenbooks.

"We are so very proud of these students as well as those who participated in reading some of the titles but did not or could not complete reports on time to meet the state's deadline," said Mrs. Barbara Zapszalka, librarian. She said the students grew to enjoy reading the books. "Frequently, students discussed books and recommended specific titles to one another. Often, they got caught up in the stories and reported they couldn't put the book down."

The students didn't like all of the books they read, but Mrs. Zapszalka sees the positive side. "Occasionally, students reacted negatively to a book, honing their discernment skills as they explained why."

Mrs. Zapszalka reported that the most popular title among Regina Dominican students was Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, followed by a three-way tie for second place: *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold, *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks, and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares. Jerry Spinelli's *Stargirl* came in fifth among Regina Dominican students.

This is the first year that Regina Dominican has participated in the statewide Read for a Lifetime program, sponsored by the Secretary of State, State Librarian, Illinois State Library and Waldenbooks. Established in 1998, the program encourages high school students to read both contemporary and classical books and ultimately develop a lifelong love for reading. To date, 6,000 high school students have completed the program, including 20 seniors who received special recognition for taking part in it for four years.