CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS

NEW PROGRAMS, NEW TRAINING EXPERIENCE, GREAT OPPORTUNITIES
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The Literacy Department is happy to announce that we have developed an online training course for new tutors. The program will be implemented starting after the May 18th New Tutor Training. The online training will give all new volunteer tutors the opportunity to learn about the details of volunteering for the HLC, practical teaching advice, information about our materials and procedures, and more. There will be shortened face-to-face trainings held more frequently throughout the year and will now provide more direct exposure and practice in tutoring. With this approach, the HLC hopes to be able to onboard new volunteers more quickly year round, compared to the current model of training, which occurs only four times a year.
New Classes Underway

With the help of our volunteer, Melissa Nye, HLC has launched a new classroom format that focuses on themes that language learners encounter in their daily lives such as On the Job English and English for the Citizenship Test. All current tutors and future tutors are able to teach these six week courses!

Find out more on our Shared Literacies Blog.
Don't put a break on learning during Summer.

Summer break is just a few weeks away! Many tutors and students are already planning vacations, trips to their native countries and gatherings among family and friends. However, Summer Break doesn't mean that you have to put a break on learning, even if you're not planning to meet up with your students! Students experience learning losses when they don’t engage in educational activities during breaks. In order to keep their skills sharp, they must practice daily! Here are some ideas you can share with your students to keep them practicing their skills until your next reunion.

- Write a journal entry each day.
- Enjoy a crossword or word search puzzle.
- Listen to an audio book (Vox Books are great for beginners!)
- Read ANR books (Check out a list on our Google Drive.)
- Make a list of daily activities.
- Reread stories from class.
- Send a postcard or write a letter to your tutor!
- Email, text or plan short calls for practice conversations.
- Skype or FaceTime.
- Mango Languages Online (free through the library!)

Remember, any time spent practicing or reviewing with your student should be included in your monthly report.

Other tips or ideas? Share them with us via email, or join our Facebook tutor group.
Annual Florida Literacy Coalition Conference

The Literacy Liaison, Eric Hughes, attended the annual Florida Literacy Coalition Conference in Daytona Beach at the beginning of May. The conference brought together administrators, directors, and students from around the state to network and learn from each other and stay up-to-date on Literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) services provided by non-profit and library-associated programs in Florida.

Through hearing the stories of other program coordinators from around the state, Mr. Hughes learned that the Hillsborough Literacy Council is fortunate to have the resources and support of the library system. Although we are not the only library in the state to offer adult literacy and ESL services, this type of partnership is far from the norm. Most organizations in Florida that offer adult education services are out there on their own, raising their own funds to pay for their own buildings and resources.

Mr. Hughes also attended workshops and presentations. One of these was on building community partnerships. He attended a workshop on marketing for adult literacy programs, and in another learned about new software and digital resources offered by our current vendors. Of particular interest was a workshop on providing services to students with learning disabilities, which is an issue of concern to the HLC.
Student Achievements  
February - April 2019

- 4 students got library cards  
- 3 students became a U.S. Citizen!  
- 2 got their driver's license  
- 21 had meaningful conversations in the community  
- 12 students had job interview and 8 got the job!  
- 5 students got a raise or promotion  
- 12 completed a skill book level  
- 31 students felt like reading English was easier  
- 32 began reading in English for their own interest  
- 10 helped their children with homework

Motivation

"My student is excited to tell me each week how she was able to practice speaking more and how her daughters are amazed and impressed at her level and use of English."

- Amanda F. - ESOL Tutor

"The program make you feel like ther is hope. you can learn."

- Danny - ABE Student

"Thank you. Thank you. THANK YOU! I couldn't have wished for a more amazing tutor than the one you have matched me with. She has gone above and beyond and I feel like my English is already improving. I cannot believe I'm getting closer to my dream of learning English. Thank you to all the tutors who volunteer in this program."

- Maria R. - ESOL Student (translated)
VISIONS Submissions

Please keep in mind that all students are eligible to submit their writings for publication in VISIONS 2019, which is published in September. Having a piece published is an opportunity for students to showcase their progress and express themselves. Stories can be personal narratives, fiction, poetry, or any other genre. Student writing is published without editing.

We recommend having a tutoring session to work on writing, then asking the students if they would like to submit the writing for publication. Below are some writing prompts you may like to work on with students. Begin by looking at the prompts together, talk about them, then work on an outline of ideas. After making an outline, work on writing a brief piece together. Pieces can be any length (although it is better to be no longer than one page double-spaced.)

- Describe your favorite memory.
- Describe your dream for the future.
- What will learning to read/speak English help you achieve?
- Describe your dream vacation.
- Describe your dream job.
- Talk about a person you admire a lot.

Nominate Your Student

September is literacy month and we celebrate it by celebrating our tutors and students during an annual assembly at the Italian Club. Each year we ask that our tutors nominate their student(s) for the Student of the Year award. ALL tutors can submit a nomination. It doesn’t matter if you’ve known your student for a week or ten years, if you think they're outstanding, let us know by nominating them!