

LITBITS

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Message from the Literacy Department

As 2020 comes to a close, the business of the Hillsborough Literacy Council continues on, although we still face challenges due to the virus. It's been a long while since we've seen many of your faces in person, and it may be while yet until we reconvene, but we are making steps to move forward and engage our students by alternate means. You will read about two of these steps below.

We will close out the year with this double issue of LitBits, but we'll return again in 2021 with new knowledge and the lessons we have learned this year to rebuild the HLC in a post-pandemic mode of operations, including new ways of communicating, training, teaching, and learning. With the help of all of our dedicated volunteers and students, we will have an exciting 2021!

Online Conversation Corners



HLC volunteer Angela Tartaglia, top right, and her online Conversation Corner

The Hillsborough Literacy Council began hosting online Conversation Corners in November, continuing on through the week before Christmas. We hope that we can attract members of our community back to talk with us, and we think that our online conversation groups offer more opportunity and flexibility than we previously had. HLC volunteers were able to host at least one conversation group a day except Saturday, often times two groups a day. Also, we have both morning and evening sessions. People are free to attend one or all sessions.

For more information and to keep an eye out on upcoming Conversation Corner schedules, please visit the English Practice Groups page on our website at:

<https://hillsboroughliteracy.org/learn/english-practice/>

The online groups will resume in January and will continue throughout 2021.

Literacy Tutor Quotes

"Since her new job requires her to speak in front of a group, we are working on her speaking ability by reading out loud."
- Tutor June H.

Cell-Ed

The Hillsborough Literacy Council is pleased to announce that we have begun to offer Cell-Ed for phone-based courses. The program offers courses in many areas including English as a Second Language as well as literacy improvement, job skills improvement, and others. The program is free and works on any phone that has texting available (texting rates may apply), and all lessons are about three minutes in length, so you can learn something new in any free moment. Do as many lessons as you like. Smart phone users may download an app if they prefer.

For more info visit: <https://hillsboroughliteracy.org/remote-learning/>

"Maria, Mary, and I talk together each week about our experiences during the pandemic. Mary started LifeStories 3."

- Tutor Brigitte H.

"Still working to improve their English speaking skills, mainly with lots of discussions, conversations."

- Tutor Frank S.

"We spoke about the difference between verbs like, "ate" and "have eaten", "took" and "have taken", "spoke" and "have spoken"

- Virtual Conversation

Leader Beth M.

Election Results

Elections were held during the November meeting of the Board. We are pleased to announce that our current officers of the board will be continuing on in 2021. They are:

Brandi Meredith: President

Dr. Jenifer Schneider: Vice President

Drew Pfeifer: Treasurer

William Hunter: Secretary

We would also like to welcome our newest board member, Joanna Cheshire, who previously volunteered as a tutor. If any current or former tutors would be interested in joining the board, please feel free to contact adulthoodliteracy@hillsboroughcounty.org.

Student Achievements

- 3 got a library card
- 9 had a meaningful conversation with someone in the community or at work
- 2 got a driver's license
- 5 had a job interview
- 2 got a new job or promotion
- 4 had meaningful interactions with a customer or employer at work
- 6 were able to read an instructional text in English
- 2 started another educational program
- 1 completed a skill level book
- 3 Feel like reading English is easier, completed official forms, wrote correspondence (i.e. letter or email), read in English for pleasure or interest
- 8 Spoke to or corresponded with a teacher in English
- 3 helped a child with homework



Winter Word Search

U S L F L M F X Y C B Q W O Y
C H X E E D V K N I T H A T N
O O G O K B E H O L I D A Y Y
A R I I C A R C H C P W I S X
T T C P F S C U E O O L P C F
S D E L J T Y O A M P O U A M
Y A E N W P S T L R B S F R R
D Y E Y K K T N U D Y E K F B
W S C L Y E F Y Y R O F R J A
I B F J G L O V E S W X A M C
N S H O T C H O C O L A T E Z
T N B M B Y U Q G E L A S J P
E O M C Q D Y N Q U U P U U Z
R W J R J A N U A R Y V O S L
H M F N E W Y E A R R Y M N A

Hot Chocolate

Short Days

December

Holiday

January

Knit Hat

February

New Year

Winter

Gloves

Scarf

Cold

Gifts

Snow

Coat

Ice