

LITBITS

Contents

Message from Literacy Office	1
Annual Appreciation Assembly	1
2021 Award Winners	1
Visions 2021	2
Fall Programs	2
Tutor Check-in	3
Farewell Melissa	4
Student Achievements	4
Crossword Puzzle	5

Message from the Literacy Office

The fall is a busy time for the Hillsborough Literacy Council. First of all, back to school time also brings people to our programs, both as students and tutors. Once kids are in school, parents find the time to seek out education for themselves, or time to donate to educating another resident of the county. This fall we have trained several new tutors for online tutoring, as well as resumed some of our typical programming. We also celebrate Literacy Month, September, with our own Student and Tutor Appreciation event, which recently took place. So, enjoy reading about all of that and more in this edition of Litbits!

Annual Student and Tutor Appreciation Assembly 2021

The Annual Student and Tutor Appreciation event took place on September 18. As always, the assembly was hosted by Rod Carter (formerly of News Channel 8) even though he now lives in North Carolina! We were also very proud to host our guest speaker, Dr. Maria Carlo, who spoke about her personal and family academic achievements and how they relate to their immigrant past. And finally, we gave away awards to our tutors and students of the year, as well our recipient of the Sylvia Miller award.

If you weren't able to attend, don't worry! We have [posted the video on Youtube](#). You don't want to miss our Sylvia Miller award recipient's heartfelt thank you!

2021 Award Winners

- ESL Student of the Year: Susana Molina Perez, nominated by Susan Cintron
- ESL Tutor of the Year: Frances Fernandez, nominated by Yesenia Giraldo
- Tutor of the Year: Sylvia "Essy" Mills, nominated by Lana Tamimi
- Sylvia Miller Award: Jim Alcorn

Volunteer Reports & Quotes

"My literacy student participated in another corporate training program. Had to take written exams and do presentations."
-Tutor June H.

"[my student] went to Walmart for the first time and was able to read the products in English. [My other student] has been using karaoke to help him!"
-Tutor Ryan J.

Visions 2021

Every year during the Annual Student and Tutor Appreciation Assembly we release the latest edition of Visions. Since we are still feeling the effects of the Covid pandemic at the HLC, namely that we are not yet up to full capacity in tutoring, we tried a different format for Visions. Normally, students submit essays that we publish unedited. This year we used a community poem approach and invited every member of the HLC community to submit a poem. The poems were all based on the theme "Where I Am From" and we provided a lesson plan and framework for creating the poem. We couldn't be happier with the results! We received some great poems, and we created one "community poem" by combining one or two lines from every submission into one longer poem. You can see all submissions and the community poem in our [Visions archive](#).

Programs Running in the Fall: Conversation Corners and English for Families

We have recently resumed two of our programs for the fall, the Conversation Corners, and English for Families. Please feel free to drop in on either program. The schedule for Conversation Corners can be found [on our website](#). The English for Families program registration page is accessible [here](#).

We would like to encourage tutors as well as students to try both programs as they will be returning in 2022. We hope that Conversation Corners will also return in the libraries as well as virtually, and as soon as we get word that in-house programming can return to the libraries we will schedule Conversation Corners at the branches.

We also anticipate offering English for Families multiple times in 2022. Any tutors interested in training to lead this program can contact the Literacy office and should also sit in on a few sessions to see how they operate.

"Josefina reported she independently and clearly was able to resolve a bus transportation issue w her son's school earlier this month. She also called me and left me a voicemail all in English"
-Tutor Zul M.

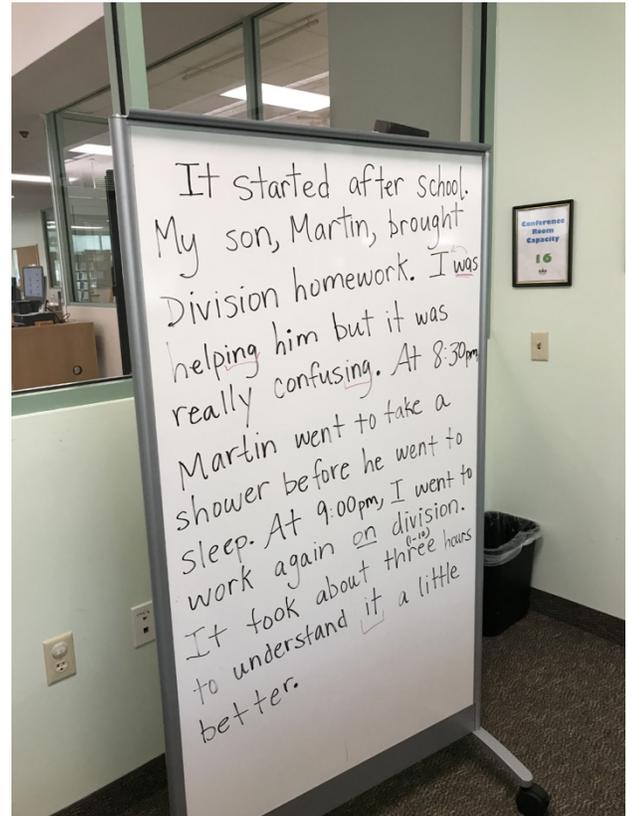
"Ceferina reads online news story after our lesson."
-Tutor Raj P.

Tutor Check-in

Any tutor interested in submitting an article or extended anecdote about their learner can always email us. For now, we have tutor Zul M. and learner Josefina joining us for an invigorating anecdote of the ripple effects of learning and improvement on other generations:

*Hello Eric and Melissa!
Hope this quick message finds you well and healthy.
Just wanted to share a paragraph Josefina wrote by herself on her own time. She brought it to our session yesterday, we talked about it, edited it together, and she then copied the final draft.*

*She is doing amazingly well!
She's been very proactive of her main goal- helping her 5th grade son, and being an active participant of his education and school meetings.*
-Zul



And, here's a little note from Conversation Corner, Angela T.

"My literacy student [who has been working on typing skills] composed & typed!!! a story about fitness
-Literacy Tutor of the Year 2021, Essy M.

*Hi Eric, I hope this email finds you safe and well.
I just wanted to let you know how much I have been enjoying the Virtual Conversation Zoom meets. I've noticed that not only is the attendance better (I typically have at least 4 or 5 visitors now; maybe because of HLC's great advertising) but also there is a nice variety in the speaking proficiency, so it allows some to listen and gain confidence, and others to really take initiative and express themselves in English. I have a theme every week, and this week we started talking about job interviews, which we all enjoyed.*
-Angela

"Anabel is studying to take her medical exams so she can practice medicine in the US."

-Tutor Jane D.

Farewell, Melissa!

We are both happy and sad to announce that our Literacy Office Assistant, Melissa Nye, is leaving for a new position in the library system. She joined the Literacy Team in 2019 and during her time has been able to talk with and help so many members of our community! She will be missed, but we wish her well in her new role as Librarian at the North Tampa Branch.

We will be welcoming a new assistant to the Literacy Office in the coming weeks.

Student Achievements

- 27 had meaningful conversations with someone in the community
- 3 got driver's licenses
- 1 is starting their learner's permit
- 3 got their library card
- 19 had a meaningful interaction with a customer or employer
- 9 got a job
- 1 bought a home
- 31 were able to read an instructional text in English
- 9 completed a skill book level
- 4 started another educational program
- 25 were able to communicate with a healthcare provider in English
- 18 understood the directions of a medical provider
- 15 made an appointment for health care in English
- 37 feel like reading in English is easier
- 45 read in English for pleasure or interest
- 26 completed official forms
- 15 wrote correspondence
- 4 wrote a check
- 9 read to a child
- 13 helped child with homework
- 36 spoke to or corresponded with a teacher in English
- 29 spoke with their child/family member in English

"Mariam continues to make progress. She asks good questions and continues to keep a notebook for learning. She picked up a grocery store aisle guide at Winn Dixie to help her practice in our lessons about the supermarket. Mariam successfully rose to the challenge of the Marshall Level 3 module."

-Tutor Chris J.

Fall Word Search 2021

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

Thanksgiving

festivals

Halloween

cranberry

literacy

bonfire

haunted

pumpkin

harvest

autumn

spooky

leaves

turkey

squash

chilly

gravy