

# LITBITS

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### Message from the Literacy Department

There is a chill in the air in Hillsborough County, and as usual at this time of year, things are winding down as we enter the holiday season. But, now is a great time to look both forward to the coming year and back over the past



one. Looking back, we were able to keep operations running over the past year, and we are glad for that. We were able to train and activate new tutors and new students. We held our annual assembly online, and we made new contacts and connections on the way. Now, we look forward to a resumption of our tutoring services as we knew them before, except with the added bonus of having virtual tutoring options. We intend to resume in-library tutoring, but of course, there may be future effects from Covid variants that influence our ability to completely resume as we were in 2019. So, just like everyone we continue to take each day as it comes. One thing is for certain, the HLC will move forward and adapt to the times!

### Career Online High School

We would like to inform the HLC community about another opportunity for adult education that is being offered by the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library, called Career Online High School (COHS). The library is offering scholarships to adults who did not complete high school. Scholarship recipients can earn an accredited diploma by working independently online at their own schedule. There is no application. Interested candidates need only review the guidelines of the program to determine if they are eligible, and submit an "Are You Ready?" survey at [hcplc.org/hsdiploma](https://hcplc.org/hsdiploma).

## Tutor Quotes

Josefina held a successful parent-teacher conference this month

- Tutor Zul

Mariam continues to be an enthusiastic learner. She actively participates in class and asks questions when she does not understand.

- Tutor Christine

Yesenia is dreaming in English! We found this very funny!

- Tutor Frances

"Seema is improving a lot. I feel I am having normal conversations with her. She is excited about her grammar book because this will help her with sentence structure.

- Tutor Ryan

## Election Results

The Hillsborough Literacy Council Board of Directors has voted to maintain the current slate of officers in their positions through 2022.

## Conversation Corners Continue Online

Due to the unknown effects of Covid heading into 2022, and to avoid disruption of services should county facilities be closed to the public, the Hillsborough Literacy Council Board of Directors has voted to continue Conversation Corners in virtual format only for the time being. Should things change, we will look for in-library conversation leaders.

## Tutor Training Update

Tutor training will resume in December 2020, with new student and tutor matching resuming in early 2022. New volunteers will begin their individual training online, and will attend live sessions for either online tutoring or in-library tutoring early in 2022. We have not trained in-library tutors since 2019.



## Laundry Cares Program

The HLC has been in discussions with the Laundry Cares program to sponsor a literacy space in a local laundromat. The Literacy Coordinator, Eric Hughes, visited one such location, Wash Zone Laundry, 5235 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa. This location is a new facility that incorporated youth literacy in the design of the facility. They offer free use of books, tablets, a play area, a patio, and snacks. We encourage you to have a look for yourself as to what facilities can be like when they are designed with the community in mind.

## Student Achievements

- 1 wrote the full alphabet
- 2 got library cards
- 6 people had meaningful interactions with an employer or customer
- 7 people communicated with health care professionals in English
- 7 people read in English for pleasure or interest
- 9 were able to read an instructional text in English
- 11 had meaningful conversation in English
- 11 people had job interviews, new training, or got new jobs
- 13 read to a child
- 20 people said English is easier

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## Winter Word Search

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

Ornaments  
Sweater  
Mittens  
Rosy

Holidays  
Festival  
Scarves

Leggings  
Chill  
Family

Pumpkin  
Spice  
Gifts