

LITBITS

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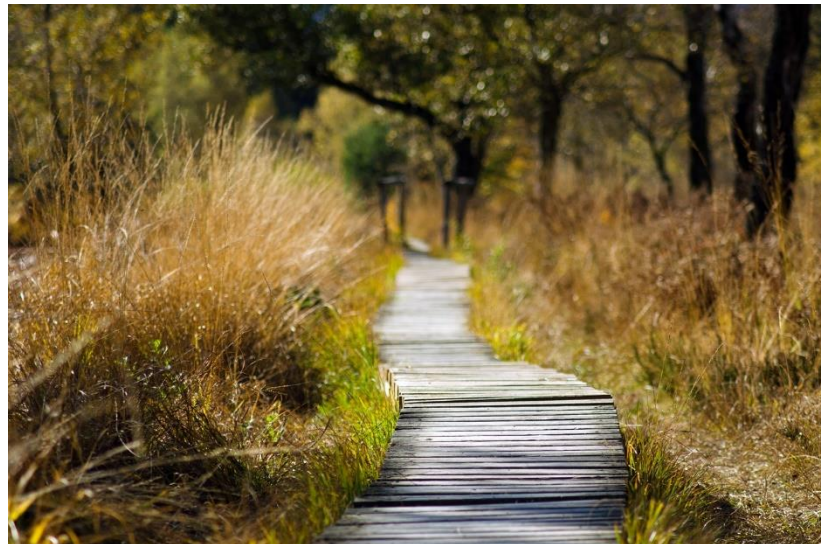
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Message from the Literacy Department

Welcome to Spring everyone! Even though it doesn't freeze here in Hillsborough County, it seems like a thaw is going on. Services are resuming in library branches, we have had many new students join us, and of course, new tutors as well for both virtual and in-library tutoring. We are also pleased to announce a new live version of a program we offered virtually last year, which you will read about below. We look forward to seeing where we end up at the end of the year, but so far, at the beginning, things are moving forward!

Conversation Corners Online Well-Attended

We would like to point out the success our Conversation Corners have been having online. Our numbers of student in attendance have been up in the online format since they resumed for 2022. We have even had participants join us from outside of the United States! We will be continuing most of our Conversation Corners online without the typical break that we have in face-to-face sessions so that we can continue to engage new students without delay. Check out our Conversation Corners [schedule](#) for more information.



English for Families In-Library Sessions

Tutor Quotes

Seymour is enjoying our sessions and feels like he is making progress. Using phonic skills to figure out words

- Tutor Karen

She is starting to have a relationship with the students at her school where she can try and speak some English to them.

- Tutor Ryan

We are focusing on business communications - emails, presentations, etc.- and practicing business-related spelling words and punctuation.

- Tutor June

Ceferina watched the movie "Gandhi" as we had read his biography online-

-Tutor Raj

We are happy to announce that we will be offering two sessions of English for Families in library branches this year. English for Families is a multi-generational learning opportunity for parents and children to practice reading strategies and English language learning. Our first session will be held at the New Tampa Regional library starting on April 18, 2022. They will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The program runs for five weeks. Registration is required. Find out more [here](#).

Return to In-library Tutor Training

The Hillsborough Literacy Council hosted its first training for in-library tutors in over two years on Saturday, March 12, 2022. We are happy to see the return of new tutors to library branches. Some of our previous tutors had already returned to in-library tutoring; although, we have not returned to pre-Covid levels. Tutors interested in resuming tutoring in library branches should contact the Literacy office, as we always have a wait list of students.

Student Writing for Visions

It's hard to believe, but it is already time to start thinking about student writing for Visions 2022. Every year we collect writing from our student body to be published unedited in our annual publication. We rely on tutors and Conversation Corner leaders to help make students aware, and to encourage students to write something. The stories do not have to be fiction. Students mostly write about their histories, and that is wonderful! You can see previous editions of Visions [here](#).

Student Achievements

11 read or spoke to a child in English
7 had a meaningful conversation with someone in the community
7 were able to communicate with a healthcare provider in English
6 feel like reading English is easier
4 were able to read product labels in English
4 had a meaningful conversation with someone in the community
4 were able to read an instructional text in English
2 got a library card
1 got a promotion
1 had a job interview

Spring Word Search

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

butterfly
ladybug
season
bees

baseball
picnic
nest

flowers
easter
seeds

rainbow
kites
warm