

LITBITS

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Message from the Literacy Department

This summer, the Hillsborough Literacy Council is making its way back from the effects of the Covid shutdowns. We have experienced a decrease in tutors and students since then, but we are rebuilding. We have been steadily training new tutors and accepting calls from new students. There had also been a staffing shortage that was slowing down our ability to provide student and tutor matching, but we have rounded a corner. You will see below that we have a new Literacy Assistant to help get students and tutors matched, as well as respond to HLC communications.

However, even as we celebrate those positive changes, we must relay that Eric Hughes is stepping down as the Literacy Coordinator. We hope that his position will be filled by the library in short order but staffing shortages have been affecting the library as they have with so many other services and businesses in the community. This may cause a slowdown in new tutor training, so we appreciate the continued patience of the HLC community.

Despite all of these changes, the Hillsborough Literacy Council is still serving the needs of adults who need literacy and English language services for free through our public libraries.

New Literacy Assistant

We would like to welcome our new Literacy Assistant, Giselle Suastegui. She comes to us from the Riverview Public Library. Giselle is fully bilingual in Spanish and English. All tutors and students should expect to see her name at the bottom of our Adult Literacy emails and to hear her voice on the other end of the phone line!

Annual Student/Tutor Appreciation Assembly 2022

The 2022 Annual Student and Tutor Appreciation Assembly is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th at 10:30 AM. The event will be returning to our usual venue, the beautiful Italian Club on 7th Avenue in Ybor City. Registered students, volunteers, and members of the HLC mailing list should receive RSVPs in their emails in the coming weeks. If you do not receive an RSVP and would like to attend, please contact the Literacy Department at adultliteracy@hillsboroughcounty.org. [Read more](#)

Tutor Quotes

Seema continues to improve. Her confidence level continues to increase and she is using English more in the community as she feels more comfortable.
- Tutor Ryan

Flor has excelled in her English skills!
-Tutor Frances

Josefina reported on a successful middle school initial tour/visit for her son; she reported understanding all the information shared and comparing the visit to when she went with her daughter over 10 years ago and not understanding anything that was said. She also got to participate, communicate, and enjoy all of her son's end of year, fifth-grade festivities

-Tutor Zul

Mariam is an eager learner! She regularly makes time for English only conversations with friends. Mariam has started to expand her conversational skills by including more details and descriptions. She is interested in submitting a piece for Visions 2022 and has begun thinking of a topic.

-Tutor Christine

Visions Submissions

Every September during the Annual Student and Tutor Appreciation Assembly we release the annual issue of Visions. Visions contains unedited student writing. We ask that every student submit a piece to be published. Submissions can be anonymous. We also ask tutors to encourage their learners to submit. We look forward to receiving submissions from both Literacy and ESL learners.

Visions is a truly inspiring publication that contains heartfelt and compelling writing. Please see our Visions archive [here](#).

Upcoming Articles

Check out two articles written by the Literacy Department Coordinator, Eric Hughes coming out in the coming months. The first will appear in the August issue of [Tampa Bay Parenting](#), entitled, "Back to School Season for All Ages." This article talks about learning at any age. Also check out the September/October issue of [Public Libraries](#) for Eric's article entitled "English Language Programing at Public Libraries: Theories, Tips, and Tricks."

Student Achievements

Even though we still have lower numbers than before the pandemic, our learners are still experiencing success!

- 1 Got a Job
- 1 Got a Library card
- 1 Got a raise or promotion
- 3 Had a job Interview
- 4 Were able to read an instructional text in English
- 6 Had a meaningful conversation with someone in the community
- 6 Read to a child, spoke to or corresponded with a teacher in English, spoke with their child/family member in English
- 10 Feels like reading English is easier

Summer Word Search

NGHFYXGHZDJNNGRJVCOC
WPBSWJPRKRMJATDDDBMCN
CIZVZALFGXFESKLOV
MEGVLXTVACATIONUAIOU
RXSTPQJERSKHYTAMGWKO
PRMTFSBQRVDUTXHBMDOJ
MGSSOLRTSMOVELYRGUUA
FRYWURWXGHERBCDEHBTQ
KBTEENMTDEBLTORLUEIC
ODGTMGBSCXHKOYALMAMB
GKQAQRAUSVDQVNTAICFZ
KQZNMKLHRAOSFKIQDHCP
LSVGISVKANNUGCOHHIAH
WXTVFCHDFHIDGPNGHMMR
PEKSSMEPCLTGCEWCDFFPG
LPPHNFTCBKQQVALMQEIW
HOEAQRKJRKFYFRSRJMN
CONDWVNGYEEYNPPTYRGZ
SLECNPZFAASQNTWLSNI
OHOFLDVRAINMYKDHSEGT

watermelon

sandcastle

hydration

rain

umbrella

vacation

ice cream

pool

cookout

camping

sunburn

tan

beach

shade

humid