

2009 Tutor Symposium



This year the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg hosted their annual in-service event for tutors at the USF-St. Petersburg campus. The training was attended by tutors from all over the Region IV area who were interested in further developing their tutoring skills. We had two visitors from Sarasota and one from New Port Richey, and they were happy to give and receive information. The Florida Literacy Coalition sponsored the symposium and provided the materials and support needed to make this a successful program.

The 2009 Tutor Symposium was set up into three separate sessions, each lasting for two hours. The first session was a tutor roundtable that allowed tutors to all come together and share the experiences they have had with their students. The group discussed ideas and techniques that worked well and those that had been challenging. Get a room full of tutors together and watch the clock; two hours is never enough!

The second session was developed to share new materials which were provided by Florida Literacy Coalition. The books included *Adult Literacy Handbook*, *Oxford Picture Dictionary*, and *Taking the Mystique Out of Learning Disabilities*. All three of these new resources are available at our tutoring sites and it is recommended that all tutors take a look at them at your convenience.

The final portion of the training course was focused on training new trainers. This is professional development for individuals who would like to do more than tutoring and participate in tutor training workshops. Anyone who would like the opportunity to strut their stuff, this is for you. We are always on the look-out for new faces in the front of the room. Could this be you? If you believe it is, contact the training coordinator for more information.

Summer Comes and Goes



Summer and Fall have been very productive for the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg. In June we trained new tutors and we continued with our tutoring sessions throughout the summer months. Our *eager* students found very little time to take a break from their studies. The new school year followed with a bang! With almost all our new tutors on board, our numbers have drastically increased in all of our centers. Our site at pTEC has a new coordinator, Don Flick. He has been a tutor for quite some time and has recently been very busy recruiting new students.

In September we had our first combined tutor training. We began introducing our tutors to working with students whose first language is not English. We call this group ESOL, which stands for English as a Second or Other Language. Our tutors are now trained to work with either group of students needing help with their reading skills. This training enhances our ability to reach more students.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newest tutors and thank all of our volunteers for the wonderful work you are doing. Keep up the great work!!

Adams, Joanne
Bache, Dahleen
Bryant, Jamal
Dardis, Eileen
Fleming, Rae
Godwin, Angela
Graves, Louise

Goltl, Ruth
Hoffman, Patricia
Horton, Patricia
Kimber, Dawn
Knudsen, Donna
Lindberg, Anne
Louis, Doris

Merkey, Jane
Mundie, Jessica
Nixon, Linda
Oliveira, Hilary
Paonessa, Cynthia
Paterno, Dolores
Reid, Danette

Shorter, Thomas
Smith, Tina Louise
Jacqueline, Thomas
Vermillion, Ann
Wiedeburg, Sugar-pi
Wills, Lauren
Winchester, Donna

Student Corner:

Thanks to students Mai Adams, Linda Barrett, Ingrid Wright

Boat Racing **by Mai Adams**

There was a boat race from St. Petersburg to Mexico. It was April 24th, 2009. The race was 456 miles to complete; there were thirty boats in the race. It is every interesting that you can watch the boat racing on the internet, if you know how to use the right program. I didn't know how to use the computer before to email to anyone that I wanted to, but I know now. I know how to operate it pretty well. I could say, I'm proud of myself, I feel I'm smart now!

The boat racing took four days to complete. I was using the computer 12 to 15 hours a day watching the race. I took off two days from going to school. I was excited watching the race on the internet. I was able to check any boat on the sea, and checked each boat's score. It was cool, wasn't it? Especially, *My Girl*, the name of the boat my husband was in. His crew had four men. I checked *My Girl's* score every half hour. Then I checked my emails, and I came back to the race.



I was very excited at the end of the race when many boats tried to pass each other. I was fascinated watching! I had no time for cooking my meals. I ate cereals for three meals a day, for four days and lost four pounds in that week! My two dogs lost some pounds too, because I didn't give them their snacks, but I gave them their meals.

My Girl won 10th place in the race. She passed eleven boats at the end! I was able to watch these boats returning home for the other four days. Watching the boats racing, on the internet is very fascinating for me, and for many people watching too! It was a long race from St. Petersburg to Cancun, Mexico. The boat racing starts every year. I'm going to watch the race again next year. But I hope that my husband won't go racing, because I don't want him to go.

It was very difficult for my husband's crew; three men were sick including my husband, because of the rough weather on the way to the race. Thirty boats were racing, but two boats dropped out. The 456 miles was a long way for boat racing; it is very tough to do.

If I Was As Small As an Ant **By Linda Barrett**

If I was as small as an ant,

I would worry about being stepped on.

Or, I would worry about being eaten and being fought.

The best thing is being in a big sugar bowl and eating all of

I would be climbing up and down the walls.



the sugar.



Friends and Amends

By C. Robinson

I've made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

In every relationship, I don't always handle things the way I would have hoped.

But, friendships don't have to end when I make mistakes. Instead, I can make amends.

If we are sincerely willing to accept the responsibilities involved in friendships, they can become stronger and richer than ever.

Making amends is simple. We approach the person we have harmed and say, "I was wrong."

Sometimes we avoid getting to the point, evading an admission of our own point, and leave it at that!

There will be times when our friends won't accept our amends. Sometimes, perhaps some of us need time to process what has happened.

We must give amends. After all, "I was in the wrong, not you." I've done my part and the rest is out of my hands.

Just for today, I want to be a responsible friend! I will strive to keep it simple when I make amends. "KEEP IT SIMPLE"

Your friend,  C. Robinson

Unbelievable

By Ingrid Wright

When I rise my mind is focused, ready to face this world with all my hurt.
Going through the day doing my daily tasks, knowing that this day will soon pass.

Being aware of the people around me, ready to give them what the Lord crowned me.
When life hit me from left to right, I soared like I was going to miss my flight.

But all along I'm holding on to dear life.
Seeing and knowing what is going on in the
World, I will never let it take my world.

So, whatever life throws my way, I will
Believe there is a better day.

I will keep on soaring, no matter what I feel.
Because, I know one day my life will be fulfilled.



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Wishes Everyone a
Happy and Healthy
Holiday Season!!!

And to All a Happy New Year !!!!!