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2 articles submitted

for

The Student Corner!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 12, 2007	Author's Workshop Heritage United Methodist Church At Countryside
May 15, 2007	Board of Directors Meeting (Elections) Pinellas Park Library
May 19, 2007	Annual Awards Dinner St. Petersburg Times Auditorium
June 1-2, 2007	Tutor Training Workshop Verizon, St. Petersburg
September 2007	Tutor Training Workshop Date and location TBA
Oct. 27, 2007	Festival of Reading USF Campus, St. Petersburg
Oct 2007	Halloween Picnic Date and location TBA
Nov 2007	In-Service Workshop Date and location TBA

LCSP Mission Statement

The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg is a non-profit organization established in 1968 to teach adults to read and to assist them in entering a GED program. LCSP is affiliated with ProLiteracy America, formed from the merger of Laubach Literacy and Literacy Volunteers.

Education's Dirty Little Secret: An Open Letter about Adult Literacy From the President of ProLiteracy

Shocking. Frightening. Stunning. Shameful. Disastrous.

Talk show hosts and their callers and the national news media used these words this week to describe the findings of a report on adult literacy. Commissioned by the mayor of Washington, D.C., the report found that one out of every three people living in the capital of one of the richest nations of the world can barely read or write.

Even more surprising, the reporters announced, is the fact that one in five adults in the U.S. is functionally illiterate - that's 30 million people over the age of 16 who are unable to fill out a job application, follow a bus schedule, or apply for a driver's license. What the media did not mention is the fact that another 63 million adults read and write only slightly better than the 30 million.

Yes, we should be shocked. Yes, we should be frightened. Low literate adults are more likely than good readers to be unemployed or need public assistance. They are uninformed consumers. They struggle to negotiate our health care system. They cannot support their children's educational activities.

But we should not be surprised.

We address our adult literacy issue primarily by making improvements in the K-12 public school system. This is education's "dirty little secret" - it is willing to sacrifice some 30+ million of today's adults in the hope that we will grow our way out of the problem of adults with low literacy skills as today's children mature.

This approach neglects several major factors. First, a substantial number of adults with low literacy skills are adult immigrants who will never attend our public schools. And the number of immigrants to the U.S. increases every year. Second, the research is clear - children whose parents or caregivers are literate grow up to become literate adults. Also, the growing numbers of "dropout-pushout" students shows that, no matter how early children start school and no matter how many interventions are applied, there still will be a number of children at risk of becoming low literate adults. Are we willing to sacrifice these young people as well?

Both parents and children are important parts of the learning equation. But public and private funding for adult basic and literacy education covers instruction for just 3 million adults a year. These programs, sponsored by local education agencies (schools), and community-based organizations, are not seen as an integral part of the nation's education strategy, therefore, funding them is not essential.

Why is this so? Is it because many of the potential adult learners are immigrants not all of whom are legal? Is it because many of the potential learners are ex-offenders, substance abusers or have other major issues in their lives? Is it because we often blame them for their situation, seeing them as people who "failed to learn" as children? Or is it because they represent this country's most marginalized population - those who earn little, pay little taxes, do not vote and do not participate in the civic and social affairs of their communities. They are unseen and unheard, which is how they remain a secret.

We should be ashamed.

Robert Wedgeworth
President/CEO

ProLiteracy Worldwide is the largest organization of adult basic education and literacy programs in the world. To learn more, go to <http://www.proliteracy.org>

Election Time for LCSP

We are lucky to have the following individuals once again continue to run and support our Literacy Council. The proposed board of directors will be installed at the Annual Award's Dinner on May 19, 2007.

Literacy Council of St. Petersburg

Proposed 2007-2008 Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President..... Barbara Taylor
Vice President..... Cris Coffin
Treasurer..... Judy Hunt
Recording Secretary..... Mary Putnam
Corresponding Secretary..... Sandy Thursby
Co-Corresponding Secretary..... Patti Raymond

DIRECTORS, ONE-YEAR TERM:

Linda Ciston
Maria Harmon
Ann Palmer
Mitch Smith

ADVISORS/CONSULTANTS:

Virginia Gildrie
Sandy Thursby
Jane Huber
Debbie VanderWoude

Training Workshop Turns out New Tutors!

Sixteen more tutors were trained at the March 23-24 workshop held at Verizon's downtown facilities, bringing the total of new tutors above 40 trained since January 2006.

We are continuing to grow and keep our tutors! We want to recognize new and current tutors as you are the heart of the council. The donation of your time is greatly appreciated by the council and your students.

The ***new certified tutors***, listed alphabetically, are:

<i>Karen Badner</i>	<i>June Barber</i>	<i>Jeanne Edmonds</i>
<i>Susan Foster</i>	<i>Candice Freeman</i>	<i>Gayle Frey</i>
<i>Usha Gheewala</i>	<i>Marilyn Halling</i>	<i>Patricia Lugo</i>
<i>Carolyn Martin</i>	<i>Bonnie Mettetal</i>	<i>Rebecca Quarles</i>
<i>Norma Roberts</i>	<i>Nancy Spaid</i>	<i>Terri Tucker</i>
<i>Julia Watkins</i>		

We will be assigning tutors as soon as we have students set up for them. Several of our sites have a backlog of students who are ready to learn.

The workshop couldn't have happened without the following individuals:

- Cris Coffin, for many things. She reserved the room, took care of security paperwork, helped people enter more conveniently and provided the wonderful home-made treats on Friday night.
- Nona Humphrey, Ann Palmer and Barbara Taylor for setup and refreshments.
- Mary Baker for greeting everyone, paperwork and answering questions based on her many years of tutoring, not to mention humor!
- Instructors Roberta Reiss, Ann Palmer, Barbara Taylor, Mitch Smith, Mary Baker and Linda Ciston.

Ann Palmer presented a new segment on learning disabilities, showing a portion of a video that had a presentation where people experienced just a taste of what it was like to have a learning disability. It got the point across and was a very eye-opening experience.

Many thanks once again extended to Roberta Reiss, who came all the way from Naples to instruct, observe and give the instructors feedback. She hopes to attend our next session as well.

The next Tutor Training Workshop is scheduled for June 1-2 at Verizon in downtown St. Petersburg.



Above Tutor Trainers (l to r): Linda Ciston, Ann Palmer



New Tutors with (standing)Trainer Roberta Reiss

Student Corner:

Thanks to students Mai Adams and Charles Oliver

Cut It Out, She Did It! By Mai Adams

I want to share with you a story that I read in the newspaper.

One day a teacher was teaching in her classroom. Her class had about twenty students. Every time she wanted to explain or teach the students, she could not do it. Many students were talking, especially one boy who talked the most. She warned them that she would cut their tongues off if they didn't stop talking.

Well, she did it! She took out the scissors from her pocketbook, and then with one hand she gripped the boy's tongue and cut it. The tongue was almost off. It took the doctor seven stitches to sew back the boy's tongue. The boy hurt for a long time. He cried every day and every night. He couldn't eat or drink because his tongue wasn't healed yet. The teacher lived in Italy. She was a substitute teacher.

I want to remind all of us, please don't talk in our classroom too much or too loudly and bother other people when they are doing their studying or testing. Or else maybe a teacher might cut someone's tongue off.

Your classmate,
Mai
(Submitted by her tutor Ann Palmer)



My Grandson

Kruz graduated from Riverside High School with a 5.0 grade average. He will be a freshman at the University of Florida. He will enter the Engineer program. Kruz wants to become an airline pilot. I am very proud of my grandson and I also love him very much. He is very special to me.

Charles Oliver
(Submitted by his tutor Mary Baker)



Hello to our new tutors and students at NE Community Center.

Tutors/Student
Marilyn Hafling/Faith Moran
Nancy Spaid/Jimmy Eveland
Jeanne Edmonds/Joyce Hall
Patti Lugo/Erica Rodriguez
Gayle Frey/Sam Dawson

Author's Workshop

United Methodist Cooperative Ministries will be hosting an Author's Workshop to benefit our Literacy Programs May 12, 2007 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM. The workshop entitled "Family Histories: Preserving Your Family's Legacy" will be hosted by world-renowned author Dr. Gloria Houston and will guide individuals and families in gathering family history and constructing a personal narrative or story.

All proceeds will go directly to UMCM's Literacy Programs. UMCM serves people with limited English or literacy skills or those new to the country by providing ESOL classes at numerous locations in the Bay Area. For more information regarding these services please contact Executive Director, Donna Ratzlaff (727) 442-6881.

The location of the Author's Workshop is Heritage United Methodist Church at Countryside, 2680 Landmark Drive, Clearwater, FL 33761. Call (727) 442-6881. Tickets are \$20 in advance at \$25 at the door. Visit www.umcm.infom for more information.

Any Interest in LD workshop? Let us know

Congratulations are in order to Christine G. Cimilluca for becoming certified instructor in Learning Disabilities who plans to put together a six-hour workshop which will include the following segments:

- * A definition of Learning Disabilities focusing on dyslexia - 90 minutes
- * A simulation with all attendees (15-20) participating to better understand the challenges of adults with LD - 90 minutes
- * Strategies to assist your adult student with LD - 3 hours

If you would have interest and feel this would be valuable workshop please let the Literacy Council know. Christine has asked for feedback.

Something Fun! Recipes to Share

Cherry Strudel Dessert

1 can crushed pineapple	chopped walnuts
1 can cherry pie filling	butter
1 box dry vanilla cake mix	

Layer dish with pineapple, then cherry. Sprinkle cake mix over entirety. Top with melted butter and walnuts. Bake for 1 hour at 325 degree oven. ENJOY!