

## “Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

April, 2024



### Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi Everyone,

I couldn't resist this cute photo of a child splashing in the rain. Remember to play every day, and having fun with your students is always a great way to spend a few hours.

### General Information

#### **Happy National Volunteer Month!**

We would like to thank you and recognize you for everything you do for Literacy Unlimited and your students. Without you, we would not be able to serve so many people in MetroWest! Thanks so much from the bottom of our hearts! If you stop by the office this month, we have a sweet treat for you.

#### **Literacy Unlimited – New Coordinator**

It's official! We are excited to announce that Martha Coleman has accepted the Literacy Unlimited Coordinator Position on an interim basis. Martha lives nearby and has lots of volunteer experience. She also is fluent in French and is learning Spanish and Portuguese. We can't wait to welcome her – she will officially start on Tuesday April 16.

### **Michelle's Last Day**

Michelle's last day will be Wednesday April 10. We are so excited for her and can't wait to see pictures of baby Liam.

### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual May Basket Raffle Fundraiser**

It may seem like it is raining every day but Spring is here and with it comes our May Basket Raffle Fundraiser. The baskets will be on display and you can purchase raffle tickets starting on April 16. The raffle drawing for the baskets will be on June 4.

You can purchase raffle tickets for \$5 a single ticket or books of 5 for \$20. There is a basket for everyone and a bike too. Spread the word to your family and friends and buy lots of tickets. The funds raised will be used to cover our operational expenses, including salaries, tutor trainers, office supplies, and materials.

### **April Library Closings**

**The Framingham libraries** and **The Morse Institute in Natick** will be closed on Sunday and Monday, April 14 and 15 in observance of Patriots' Day.

## **Good to Know – For Tutors**

### **Congratulations New Tutors**

Congrats to the thirteen new tutors who completed their tutor training in March. We can't wait to match them with a student!

Rhonda R.

Sarah E.

Chris H.

Jeeval M.

John S.

Gretchen Y.

Cyd S.

Jasmine L.

Jane J.

Ruth H.

Terry A.

### **It's Assessment Season!**

As many of you know, April, May and June is the time when we assess all students who are matched with a tutor. Our staff and a couple of certified volunteers will be administering all the assessments (hundreds of them!).

Please help us out letting your student know about the upcoming assessment. We will send you a separate email for you and your student to choose a date and time for the assessment. It will be easier if we administer the assessment when you meet with your student.

The results of the assessment won't impact your student participation in the program. This is a requirement from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who sponsors part of our program.

There are three types of assessments we administer depending on the student's English level. Below you can find a short description of them.

**Best Plus** → This is an oral assessment focused on English communication skills. It can take between 10 and 50 minutes to complete depending on your student's English level. We administer this assessment to low-beginner, beginner and low intermediate level students. It can be administered online if that is how you regularly meet with your student.

**TABE** → This is a reading comprehension assessment, administered to intermediate English students and Basic Literacy Students. It includes some phonics.

**MAPT** → This is an advanced reading test. This assessment is taken online and at the student's own pace. It can take up to 2 hours to complete but it can be taken on more than one day.

### **Have You Considered Taking on a Second Student?**

Have you ever thought about working with more than one student? This is the perfect time to do it! Let us know about your preferences and availability and we will make it happen. We currently have about 130 students waiting to be matched with a tutor.

### **Mark Your Calendar - Professional Development Workshop (PDW) – Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Lesson Plans: The Backward Model 1:00 – 2:30 pm in Costin Room**

Marcel will teach you a simple procedure for creating effective lesson plans that help you and your student meet your goals. Don't miss this great workshop!

## **Good to Know – For Students – Spread the Word**

### **Basic Computer Class**

We are going to again offer a 10.5 hour (7-week) basic computer class for hi-beginner English speakers and above. The class will be in the Technology Learning Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) of the Framingham library on Mondays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm on May 6, 13, 20, June 3, 10, 17 and 24. Students who attend all sessions will receive a certificate of completion. If your student is interested, please have them contact us.

## Tutor and Student Pair Accomplishments – You Rock!!!!

Please remember to let us celebrate you and your student's accomplishments by sending us an email or including a comment when you report your monthly hours. Thank-you to everyone who took the time to share their activities with us this month. We think the updates below are both inspirational and instructional.

**Viktoriia and Elizabeth** – Viktorria and Elizabeth have been working together since September 2023. Viktorria started a new job as a medical assistant in January 2024. During the first months of tutoring, Viktorria and Elizabeth researched all the medical careers available to foreign educated doctors and after investigating all the options, Viktorria has chosen to pursue getting into a U.S. medical residency program to become a doctor in the U.S. Viktorria completed the University of Pittsburgh Coursera course on "Clinical Terminology for International and US Students". She is using that knowledge in her new job and to get references for a future residency program. Way to go Viktorria and Elizabeth! *(March 2024)*

**Bruno and Jim** – Bruno and Jim have been matched since November 2023. Last month, we explained that Bruno had been preparing weekly writing assignments. If you would like to read one of Bruno's stories it is posted on cubicle 2 in the Literacy Center or you can click here: [Bruno's Story](#) This is such a fun share - thank-you Bruno and Jim! *(March 2024)*

**Grace and Rebecca**- Grace and Rebecca have been working together since December 2022. Grace recently passed her Certified Nurse Assistant test. This pair is unstoppable! Congrats on the great team work, Grace and Rebecca! *(March, 2024)*

**Emilie and Diane**- This pair has been working together since February 2022. They just finished studying the content of the CNA test material. Good luck Emilie and Diane! You got this! *(March 2024)*

**Cleo and Peter**- Cleo and Peter have been matched since July 2023. They have been studying vocabulary and technical terms that Cleo needed for job interviews. Great work Peter and Cleo! Good luck and keep us posted! *(March 2024)*

**Victoria and Nancy**- Victoria and Nancy have been matched since March 2023. In this short period of time, Victoria learned how to obtain a library card so she can now borrow books and use Mango to practice her English at home. Great work Victoria and Nancy! *(March 2024)*

## Last Word

The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, said – “**the only constant in life is change**”. Well, change is certainly upon us in Literacy. We will miss Michelle very much but are really excited for her and can't wait to hear her new baby stories. We are thrilled to have a new coordinator, Martha, who will be stepping in for Michelle just as Michelle steps away and we think she is going to make a great addition to the team. And at some point, Literacy will be moving to a

newly renovated space on the second floor in the library. We are currently cleaning out our files and preparing for the move. I guess you can also say “change is good”.

Have a great day,

Karen, Michelle, Laurie, and Marjie