

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

August, 2024



Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi Everyone,

This newsletter is packed with information, upcoming events and requests for volunteers. So, grab a glass of something cool and your calendar.

First off, our July summer social was a huge success. At least 75 tutors, English learners, library staff and community members ventured to Jack’s Abby to have a meal and socialize. It was a lot of fun to see everyone in-person and to connect in a relaxed atmosphere. Thank-you to everyone who came out and supported our program at this fundraiser.

General Information

Literacy Unlimited New Space Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Wednesday, August 28 at 5:00pm

Our new space was funded by library donations and a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony with Karen Spilka, President of the Massachusetts Senate and Charlie Sisitsky, Mayor of the City of Framingham. We would love to see you there to celebrate the new space with Literacy Unlimited swag and small bites!

Do you or your student play acoustic guitar or another musical instrument? We would love to have student or tutor performers to help provide music for this event. Let us know if you or your student would be interested!

August Library and Literacy Closings

The Framingham libraries will be closed on Friday **August 16 for Staff Day**. The Framingham libraries and the Morse Institute Library in Natick will be closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday **August 31, September 1 and 2** in observance of **Labor Day**.

Volunteers Needed

Tutor/Student Pairs

Would you be interested in bringing your student to one of our tutor training sessions to explain in-person what it is like being a tutor? We need student tutor pairs for a Saturday morning in September and a Thursday afternoon in October or November. If you meet with your student during one of these times, we would love to have you pop into a new tutor training session for about 15 minutes. Let us know if you might be interested by emailing us fplmail4@minlib.net. The student tutor pair visit to a tutor training session is one of the most popular components of our training.

Help with New Student Registration

During the week of September 23, we will be registering new students and will need volunteers to help students complete the student registration form. If you are interested, contact us and we will provide you with more information about the days and times volunteers are needed. [Fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net)

Good to Know – For Students

Semi-Annual Student Registration

Our fall new student registration will be during September 23 – September 26 at the Framingham Library. Dates and times are posted [HERE](#) on our website. Spread the word to your students so they can spread the word to their friends and family.

Good to Know – For Tutors

Professional Development – Miniseries on Art, Creativity, and Literacy – 1st Session in the Mini-Series is Thursday, August 22nd at 6:00 – 7:30pm, Framingham Main Library, Costin Room

Making Art, Growing Language – Robin Danzak

Have you ever been moved by a painting or sculpture, or enjoyed creating something with markers, paint, or clay? How can appreciating and making art promote language? This workshop will address that question. Tutors at this workshop will be guided through culturally-relevant and easily replicable art viewing and making activities while targeting English language skills through description, discussion, and reflection. Each activity will differentiate how students with different levels of proficiency can participate and engage. Materials will be provided so please let us know if you plan on attending fplmail4@minlib.net

BurlingtonEnglish – A New Curriculum to Try with Your Student

BurlingtonEnglish is a comprehensive, blended curriculum that fully integrates all four communication skills, grammar, and life skills from beginning to advanced levels. The flexible, web-based curriculum combines teacher-led instruction with online independent student lessons that complement and reinforce concepts taught in class or in a tutoring session.

Literacy Unlimited will be able to get multiple licenses for tutors. If you are interested in learning more about this new resource, please email us fplmail4@minlib.net. When we learn more about the program, we will share that information with interested tutors. In the meantime, here a link to their website if you want to learn more: [BurlingtonEnglish](#)

Upcoming ESOL Information Sessions and Tutor Training

We are looking for new tutors. If you know someone who you think might be interested, please suggest to them that they contact us. Below are our scheduled new tutor information sessions and tutor trainings for the rest of the year.

Information Sessions:

Saturday, August 24 10:00 – 11:00am at the Framingham Public Library - Costin Room and Zoom

Thursday, September 26 1:30 – 2:30pm at the Framingham Library – Costin Room and Zoom

Tutor Trainings:

Saturdays September 14, 21, 28 and October 5 from 9:15am – 1:15pm
Framingham Public Library – Technology Learning Center

Thursdays October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21 from 1:30pm – 4:30pm
Framingham Public Library – Costin Room

Email Reminder

As you know, we love to hear from you and we don't want your comments and requests to get lost in our email. To make sure that we hear you loud and clear, please try not to respond to Newsy emails or other blast emails about something not related to the general email. For example, updates about you or your student, test scheduling, requests for help with resources etc. are best sent to us in a separate email with a descriptive "subject line". Thanks so much – we don't want your important email to get buried and we want to respond as quickly as we can. A link to our email is usually at the end of any of our emails to you.

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. We think the updates below are remarkable and we know you will enjoy reading them. We are so grateful to our tutors for all you do and for taking the time to share with us. Thank-you.

Amy's Int/Advanced conversation class – Amy worked with her class and one of her students to draft an email requesting that the student be re-instated in our literacy program and matched with a tutor. They worked together on a draft email to the literacy office that included a note of gratitude, explained the changed situation and a clear request for the student to be reinstated and matched with a tutor. However, at the end of the class exercise, the student concluded that he was still not in a situation to commit to meeting weekly with a tutor due to his work schedule. What a great exercise on so many levels for our students. Thank-you Amy for sharing. *(June 2024)*.

Mina and Sheryl – Mina and Sheryl have been working together since October 2023. You may remember reading about these two in the last “Newsy”. I am happy to report that Mina will “graduate” from our program and no longer meet officially with Sheryl. They will continue to meet from time to time but Mina has met his goals. He speaks English confidently now with his children who are American born and with the lawyers and accountants that are associated with his construction business. Congratulations to you both – we couldn't be more proud of your accomplishments. *(July 2024)*

Grace and Rebecca – have been working together since December 2022. Grace was just awarded a Nurse Aide Certification from the Department of Public Health/Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She started studying for the exam in January. She was one of six students who were certified out of 34 students in her class. Congratulations to Grace – this pair is crushing it. *(July 2024)*

Last Word

Thank-you for reading to the end. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and find an activity or two of interest. If you have comments or suggestions about our program, let us know. We love to hear from you.

Karen, Martha, Laurie, and Marjie