

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

February, 2025



Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi Everyone,

February is a short month but we have many happenings to share with you.

General Information

ProLiteracy awards \$6,000 Grant to Literacy Unlimited



We are excited to announce that ProLiteracy – one of the world’s leading literacy organizations which formed in 2002 thanks to the merger of Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America – has graciously awarded Literacy Unlimited a \$6,000 grant through their Literacy Opportunity Fund. On the Who We Are page of their website, ProLiteracy says “Our job is to make sure adult literacy programs can do theirs.” Thank you ProLiteracy for helping us help our students!

New Student Registration week of February 10 – Tutoring Spaces Impacted

Next week is new student registration; this is a busy time as volunteers will be helping new students to fill out intake forms in the Literacy Unlimited space (i.e., the small classroom area and the tables and chairs adjacent to Literacy).

We anticipate that our space will be the most crowded next Monday and Tuesday from 10am -12pm and from 4 - 7pm. If you are planning to meet with your student during those times, we suggest you meet in the library's lobby, the first-floor study room, the Technology Learning Center on the upper floor if there isn't an ESOL class in session, or if all else fails we have reserved the Costin room for tutors and students to meet.

February Library and Literacy Closings

Both Framingham libraries and Natick Morse Institute will be closed on Sunday, February 16th and Monday, February 17th in honor of Presidents' Day.

Good to Know for Tutors

Tutor Time – Immigration Policy and Practices Tuesday, February 18th, 5:30pm – On Zoom

Over the last few weeks, we have seen rapid changes to immigration policy in the U.S. which directly impact our community in a variety of ways. Some of our English learners are stressed out and afraid given the new administration's approach to immigration. And because of the trusting relationship many of you have with your students, we expect they may reach out to you with questions.

Program Coordinator Martha Coleman will host a Tutor Time session this month dedicated to answering questions and addressing concerns that you or your student(s) may have to the best of her ability. This session will be held online via Zoom at 5:30pm on Tuesday, February 18th. Reply to this email to RSVP and receive a reminder email and the Zoom link.

Workshop with Dr. Robin Danzak – Writing to Learn for all Students! Thursday February 27, 6-7:30pm - Framingham Public Library – The Learning Center (upper floor)

Why write with English learners? This workshop explores how writing engages students, enhances language and literacy learning, and promotes self-expression and empowerment. Participants will experience meaningful writing activities that they can immediately use with students at all levels. If you plan to attend let us know so we have an idea of the number of attendees.

Facilitator Bio

Robin L. Danzak, PhD., is a multilingual educator passionate about language teaching and learning. Robin lived in Chile for five years where she completed an MA in Linguistics in Spanish. She then worked as a Spanish teacher and curriculum coordinator in Florida public schools, during which time she earned a PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a focus on bilingual language and literacy. Robin has been a university faculty member since 2007, and is currently an associate professor at Emerson College in Boston. Her research explores bilingual writing and its intersection with identity and the immigrant experience through dynamic projects with multilingual-multicultural adolescents and adults.

Tutor Training in March – Last call

Do you know someone like you who could be a great tutor? Don't forget to refer them to our program. The next ESOL Tutor Training will be in-person at the Framingham Library on Saturdays from 9:15am – 1:30pm on March 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Good to Know for Your Students – Please Share with Them

1-1 Conversational English Practice – Thursdays, 2:30-4pm, starting February 27th

Literacy Unlimited is partnering with an education class from Framingham State University to provide weekly 1-1 conversational English practice for adult English learners starting on February 27th. Attendees will be paired up with an FSU student to talk about anything from their lives, to the weather, to current events.

This drop-in group will run every Thursday from 2:30-4pm for English learners at a **High Beginner level or above**. The group is open to anyone in the community – attendees do not need to be registered Literacy Unlimited students to join. Please tell your student(s) about this opportunity and let us know if they are interested!

Tutor and Student Accomplishments – You Rock!!!!

Our students with the help of their tutors continue to make impressive strides forward. Congratulations to all our silent heroes.

Ekaterina and Kathy and Brian – Ekaterina who attends Kathy's English conversation class and attended Brian's Citizenship seminar just passed the US Citizenship interview. Congratulations!



Eva and Olga - have been meeting since March of 2024 and Eva started a job as a server in a restaurant. How exciting!

Leandro and Eric – were recently matched and Leandro has since passed his learner's permit test and has scheduled his driving test. Way to go!

Mary Jo and Jeanide – have been meeting since November and Jeanide just started a new job. Congratulations!

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.

Last Word

Valentine's Day is arguably the snowiest month here in the Northeast and by now almost all of us are anticipating some warmer, sunnier days. This holiday comes at the exact right time to share warm hugs with each other. Many of our students are challenged with very complicated lives (e.g., multiple jobs, unpredictable work schedules, uncertain legal statuses, enormous family responsibilities, etc.) and of course language challenges. Many of our tutors too have multiple responsibilities and challenging lives as well. We at Literacy are sending you all a valentine with a big, warm hug for all you do for each other. You are a very special group worthy of a very special valentine.

Stay warm and safe,

Martha, Karen, Laurie, and Marjie