

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

January, 2024



Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi Everyone,

The new year is here and with it comes snow and lots of news at Literacy. Both are good things! So grab a cup of something warm and a calendar and get ready to share Literacy Unlimited’s winter energy.

General Information

Literacy Unlimited Coordinator Position

As many of you know, Michelle is expecting a baby boy in May. We are all very excited to have a baby in Literacy. Michelle will be leaving her position in April and the city we will be looking for an interim coordinator to fill her position. If you are interested, please contact Michelle. We would like to have someone who is familiar with the Literacy Unlimited program take over the reins this Spring.

Year-End Celebration

Thanks so much for attending the year-end celebration on December 12. We had a great night of fellowship and fun games. More than 90 community members participated in the event, and we couldn’t be more grateful for the generous response to the potluck! To see some pictures, [click here](#).

Literacy Unlimited 2023 Annual Appeal

Thank-you so much to everyone who donated to the annual appeal. We raised \$14,233.76! Although the appeal is officially over you can donate any time during the year on our website here: [Donate to Literacy Unlimited](#)

January Library Closings

The Framingham libraries will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Morse Institute in Natick will be closed on Sunday and Monday, January 14 and 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Good to Know – For Tutors

Professional Development Workshop (PDW) – Tuesday, January 23rd - The English Verb System - By Marcel L. 1:00-2:30pm - Costin Room - Framingham Public Library

In this workshop, tutors and teachers will learn to identify the simple, progressive, perfect, and emphatic forms of verbs to teach their students. With hands-on activities, tutors will learn ways to teach their students the differences between these different grammatical components.

Professional Development Workshop (PDW) – Friday, March 1st 10:00-11:30 pm- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop

Framingham Public Schools Equity and Diversity Projects Coordinator, Daisal Obomanu will discuss the importance of differentiating the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Learn the importance of providing the right volunteering service to different community members and how to best connect with others despite our differences. This workshop will be held on Zoom.

Professional Development Workshop (PDW) – Wednesday, March 20th - Using ChatGPT to Prepare Lesson Plans – 6:00 – 7:00pm

What is ChatGPT you ask? Well it is a free generative (i.e., new material) AI (i.e., artificial intelligence) chat (i.e., 2 people exchanging words). Because it is generative and creates new content it is not a search engine that finds existing material. How can it help you? Assume you are creating a lesson plan for your learner and you have a particular idea in mind but you have searched all favorite websites and Ellii and you just can't find what you are looking for. ChatGPT may be able to help you very quickly. Intrigued? This workshop will show you how to get started and how other tutors are using this tool now.

If you are using ChatGPT to prepare for tutor or conversation class lessons let us know. We would love to know how you are using it.

Thinking in a Foreign Language Improves Decision-Making

If you attended our end of year celebration you may remember Kathy Roth speaking about the advantages of knowing a second language. Here is an article that was shared with us from Robyn Danzak that explores the topic: [I couldn't believe the data': how thinking in a foreign language improves decision-making | Language | The Guardian](#)

New ESOL Tutor training

You all know we are always looking for a few good tutors. If you know of someone who you think would make a good tutor please have them contact us. Training starts on January 18 and will run on 6 consecutive Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:30pm.

Student Registration Session 2/12 - 2/15 VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We will host a student registration session the week of February 12. Students can come to the office and register **Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** or in the evening on **Monday, Tuesday or Thursday night from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**. This registration session is only for students who would like to have a tutor to study one-to-one with them.

If you would like to volunteer on any of these days please let us know by replying to this email.

New Tutors Who Have Recently Completed Tutor Training

Below are the names of the ESOL tutors who recently completed the tutor training. Congratulations new tutors!!!

Myra B.

Cynthia P.

Vincent A.

Allen B.

Karen S.

Ashley W.

Jennifer S.

Maura S.

Kanni V.

Good to Know – For Students – Spread the Word

Citizenship Seminar Starts Thursday, February 22 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Brian will be teaching the Seminar which runs for 11 weeks on Thursday nights. He is passionate about US history and citizenship. Many of the students that you read about in Newsy passing the citizenship test have taken his seminar. If you have a student who has applied for citizenship or is thinking about applying in the next year or so, please let them know about this seminar. They can find out more about the seminar [here](#) or they can stop by the office. Registration is required and students should be intermediate or higher English speakers.

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

Liliane and Tim - Liliane and Tim have been working together since April 2023. Liliane just got a new job at the Framingham School District. Congratulations! (*December, 2023*)

Evgeniya and Brian - Evgeniya took Brian's Citizenship seminar in Spring 2023, she recently passed her naturalization interview. Congrats Evgeniya and Brian! (*December, 2023*)

Alexander and Brian - Alexander attended Brian's Citizenship seminar and he became a citizen in December. Way to go Alexander and Brian! (*December, 2023*)

Last Word

As always thank-you for reading to the end and have a great day. We hope to see you at one or more of our upcoming events.

Karen, Michelle, Laurie, and Marjie