

Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bi-Weekly Bulletin!

Hi everyone,

- It is exciting to hear - the Library will probably open sometime this summer! At Thursday night’s virtual office hours meeting, Anne shared with us some Literacy space changes that are under consideration. Nothing is definitive so stay tuned! Hint: there will be a lot more open space!
- We are working on ways to re-engage with our students. In a couple of weeks, we are planning to have in-person office hours outside next to the Library parking lot. We will let you know when the dates and times are firmed up so you can encourage your students to attend.

English Conversation Classes



Looking for Conversation Class Leaders

We are looking for tutors to lead new English conversation classes. Some suggestions for conversation classes are: a book reading group, a play reading group, a class focusing just on idioms, a writing group, a civics group, etc. Do you have an idea for an English conversation class and would you like to give it a try? Let us know – we will help you get it off the ground. Nights and Saturdays seem to be popular times with students as many of them are working during the day.

Weekly Conversation Classes

The following English conversation classes are being held weekly. Tutors, students, and conversation class leads are encouraged to refer students who want to join a class. The conversation class leader will forward meeting information to new students.

Framingham:

Beginner:	Mondays	1:00 - 2:30 PM	TPRS (Teaching Proficiency by Reading & Storytelling)
Low Int to Adv:	Fridays	1:00 - 2:30 PM	FUN with Pronunciation!

High Beg/Int: Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 PM
Intermediate: Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30 PM
 Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Advanced: Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Contact us if you have an interested student fplmail4@minlib.net.

Natick:

Beginner: Tuesdays 11:00 - 12:00 PM
Intermediate: Fridays 10:30 – 12:00 PM

Contact Laurie Christie if you have an interested student LChristie@minlib.net

Tutor Meetings

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday June 2nd at 2:00 PM

Tutor technology meetings explore digital teaching options for use in conversation classes or for one-to-one tutoring.

The meeting on June 2nd will review the WhatsApp application and how it can enable remote tutoring.

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday June 9nd at 2:00 PM

At the June 9th meeting we will review and discuss Eleanor Stafford's presentation regarding remote tutoring with low tech and high tech options relevant for basic literacy and ESOL students. Eleanor is the author of our Basic Literacy Tutor Training and is a fantastic trainer.

Virtual Office Hours for Tutors – Every Thursday night at 7:00 PM

Remember how you used to be able to drop into our office and talk with us about what was going on, or get some new ideas for tutoring, or just laugh? Well, now we are holding “virtual” office hours every Thursday night at 7:00 PM for tutors to do what they used to do in person. And if you couldn't connect with us in person before (e.g., you tutored at night or outside the Library) now you can on Thursday nights.

Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring

Whatever you call it, it is here to stay and our tutors and students are experimenting with it. Want to try something new? Here are some ideas from our tutors, conversation class leaders, and others.

Tutoring with Videos

Several of our tutors/classroom leaders teach with videos. They choose an English level appropriate video (approximately 4-5 minutes long) and prepare a vocabulary list and set of

questions to go along with the video. They have the student watch the video on their own time and respond to the questions live during a web meeting, phone call, or by email. Tutors and students have said this approach enables learners to better participate in a live meeting because they have a chance to prepare. Tutors also tell us that their students like lighter articles and ones that are on the cutting edge of science. By the way, you could use the same approach with an interesting online article.

KWL Approach

Our tutors and conversation leaders have mentioned this approach several times too. In advance of reading an article or watching a video, you can pose the following questions to the students. They can answer by email or live but this gives an interesting way to frame a lesson.

What do you **know** about the subject?

What do you **want to know** about the subject?

What did you **learn** about the subject? (Presumably students would answer after reading/watching.)

Here are some interesting videos shared by tutors to get your creative juices flowing:

Ted Talk – Underwater Astonishments:

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_gallo_underwater_astonishments

Crooks are everywhere (really funny, no audio)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lq9bVlt_BJ4

ON, AT, IN Usage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AulzPgb3vvo&t=161s>

Good to Know

Face Masks

If you or a student need a face covering, email us at fplmail4@minlib.net with your student's and/or your name and phone number. The library will coordinate the mask pick-up.

In-person Meetings with Students

As an affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts (LVM), Literacy Unlimited is following LVM guidance which prohibits in-person activities including one-to-one tutoring, social meetings, group meetings, group instruction or gatherings of any kind until further notice. We continue to encourage you to keep tutoring remotely if you can.

ZOOM Upgrade

ZOOM has an important upgrade primarily to improve security. To upgrade now:





Go to <https://zoom.us/signin> Sign-in with your email address and password. You should see the following notice at the top of the page. Click on “now”.

Important Notice

Please begin updating all your clients to Zoom 5.0 [now](#). After May 30, 2020, all Zoom clients on older versions will receive a forced upgrade when trying to join meetings as GCM Encryption will be fully enabled across the Zoom platform. Click [here](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Information for you and your students:

Below is great chart regarding COVID-19 safe practices for you and your students:

LOWEST RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGHER RISK	HIGHEST RISK
 <p>HOME ALONE OR WITH HOUSEMATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stay home as much as possible. •Try to allow only people you live with into your home. •Wash your hands. •If you're sick, stay home and isolate from housemates. 	 <p>OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Avoid shared surfaces, like swings or benches. 	 <p>OUTDOOR GATHERINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces. •Participate in events like these infrequently. 	 <p>INDOOR GATHERINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces. •Open windows for better ventilation. •Try to avoid gathering indoors as much as possible.

Final Thoughts

Anne was able to go into the Literacy office this week and said it was weird seeing the calendars (including the word of the day calendar) still set to March. I suspect it felt a bit like opening a time capsule - everything was exactly the way we left it on a very cold day in March when we took a few things out of the office and left having no idea what the future would hold. In some ways it wasn't that long ago, in other ways it seems like it was a very long time ago. Since March, we have learned to host and attend ZOOM meetings, we have gotten to know what a virtual classroom looks like, we've experimented with digital libraries and content, we've used our website more as a content repository, our tutors are working with students far away and in other countries, we've shared our experiences with groups of tutors, and so much more. And although social/physical distancing was expected to isolate us, some of us are even more engaged now with the program than we were before the Pandemic and that is a really "good" thing.

Engagement that's my word this week. Let me explain. I prepared a first draft of Newsy prior to attending Thursday night's virtual office hours meeting and before reading an inspiring email from one

of our conversation class leaders. My first Newsy draft was OK, but after these two events, I was so much more engaged with our tutors and inspired to rework the Newsletter and make it much better. My message: it is so important to engage with our community. Every one of you has ideas and experiences to share. By sharing and engaging, each of us will continue to enrich this extremely important initiative we call Literacy Unlimited. So join us for a ZOOM meeting, volunteer to lead a class, email us and let us know what is working and not working for you and or your student, or let us know how we might be able to help. In short ENGAGE!