

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

June 15, 2020



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

Hi everyone,

Student Outreach: We are worried that we have not reached all our students – and the reasons may be very complicated. Last week we emailed over 400 students with questions regarding their current situation – how best to reach them, what technology they have at home, and what applications they use. Please encourage your student to complete the survey so that we can better plan our activities going forward. Note that we know that all students do not use email so we will plan to text them soon!

English Conversation Classes: Several of our conversation classes are at capacity so this week we plan to explore ways to expand our conversation class offerings. See below for more information – all tutors are welcome at these virtual meetings.

English Conversation Classes

Conversation Class Leaders Meeting – Tuesday June 16th

This meeting is for current conversation leaders and potential new conversation class leaders. We plan to discuss how these classes can best serve our students in our new normal of living with COVID. One of the changes that we believe might help is to have 2 leaders for a new class: one leader initially focusing on remote class technology (e.g., ZOOM meetings and digital content) and the other leader focusing on the class content. So if technology was holding you back from volunteering to be a class leader, please join us on Tuesday, we have a plan for that.

Meeting times: We have scheduled two meetings on Tuesday one in the afternoon and one in the evening to accommodate tutors’ schedules. There is no need to attend both.

Weekly English 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: Storytelling)	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 16th at 2:00 PM (No meeting this week)

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday June 23rd at 2:00 PM

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

All topics are welcome – it is always an interesting discussion.

Last Thursday night we discussed Library reopening plans, a tutor’s success with engaging her student in remote learning, and the challenges of discussing the current US BLM protests with students.

Please join us 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 of the websites Laurie mentioned at last week’s Tutor Technology meeting that you might like to check out:

newsela.com - Good for reading practice and to change the number of text words - has current news and stories

goodnewsnetwork.org - Good stories about positive things, also has listening

storycorps.org - stories told in interviews good for listening

timesinplainenglish.com - stories are a little bit higher level, lots of topics to choose from

newsinlevels.com – story levels 1, 2, 3 and listening, short news stories

NewsForYouOnline - reading and listening activities, current events, teacher's guides

[Easy English News](http://EasyEnglishNews) - may only be available in paper - good for jigsaw work and explanations of US news

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.

Final Thoughts

We would like to share a message from Roberta Soolman, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts (LVM). Her message recognizes both the pain we are experiencing as a nation as well as the important work you volunteer to do to bring about change.

Dear LVM Community,

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade and countless others are dead, Black victims of police brutality borne out of raw and violent racism.

The fact that these killings happened in the United States, a republic that presumes it adheres to the belief that all men are created equal, has ripped a hole in our country. Protests from coast to coast and around the globe have rocked this nation as they should. Our systems, our institutions and our country need rocking.

Mr. Floyd's horrific murder, memorialized on video, cannot be ignored. Police brutality and treating people of color as disposable have no place in the United States. The institutions in our country that promote poverty, inequality, injustice and violence are more than broken.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts students and volunteer tutors exemplify what a community can accomplish when it joins together to collaborate, support and learn from each other. They work together tirelessly because our students want to achieve their dreams and the better life that this country promises. The work that our tutors and students do is empowering, amplifies voices and creates change in our communities.

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts stands in solidarity with our students, our volunteers, the communities we serve, and our partners to listen, learn and work for what we believe is every person's birthright -- equality, civil rights, and justice.

Sincerely,

*Roberta Soolman
LVM Executive Director*

We encourage you to let us know how you are doing and hope you can join us for one of our remote meetings,

Karen