

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

June 29, 2020



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

Hi everyone,



We are taking a much needed break for the next two weeks and will be back in full swing on July 13th. Some of us are actually traveling, Anne is off to Minneapolis to visit her son and some of us will be enjoying a staycation. We will still be working behind the scenes, for example Liehua has end of year data clean-up to complete and we will monitor emails, but we will not be holding ZOOM meetings or producing Newsy.

Student Outreach: We received over 40 responses (a 10% response rate) to our student email survey. The most obvious survey result was that students are interested in attending conversation classes, particularly evening classes. In response we are planning to add more conversation classes. We know that all students do not use email so we are also working on sending them a similar survey using text messaging.

We are planning outdoor student office hours to be held in the second half to July but we are still working through the approval process.

English Conversation Classes

We are working with new conversation class leaders to expand our conversation class offerings and plan to start some new classes in August. If you haven't already, let us know if you are interested in leading or co-leading a class. We are especially interested in adding more evening classes.

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:	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

Next Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday July 14th at 2:00 PM

Next Virtual Office Hours for Tutors – Thursday July 16th at 7:00 PM

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

Recent discussions have included review of the results of the student email survey, how to use breakout classrooms in ZOOM, ZOOM Help videos, and videos for beginner ESOL students.

Please join us on Thursday nights!

Joining a ZOOM meeting: Click here [Literacy Unlimited/Covid-19 Ideas](#) for ZOOM download instructions for Android and iPhone/iOS devices. If you don't have video capability, you can just call into the meeting. Lihua has helped several tutors, who have called into a meeting, to set up the video at a later date.

Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring

Here are some ideas and websites we discussed at the recent tutor technology and tutor office hours meetings. These might help you to spark your creativity and add some variety to your remote tutoring sessions.

Storytelling: Several tutors seem to be incorporating storytelling in their lessons and report positive student engagement as a result. For example, one tutor is polling her class to decide story-line order and/or story endings and students are writing stories to share with the class.

Another tutor used Kenn Adams' "Story Spine" to create a story. You could easily use both approaches in one-to-one student tutoring.

For more information and an example of how to use the Story Spine, click here [the Story Spine](#). These are the Story Spine prompts:

Once upon a time...And every day...Until one day...And because of this...And because of this...Until finally...and ever since then...

To get your student speaking more - [50 Questions](#) - A list of 50 questions to get kids (adults) talking

Short videos with lesson plans - [Short Films for ELT students](#)

USA Learns – Used to be subscription based and offered through the Library but is now free for everyone. Set up a student account (not a teacher account) to see the lessons. Includes short videos. <https://www.usalearns.org/>

Collocations - Sets of words that go together in a language but over time some sets sound right and others don't. For example, *run an errand* vs. *do an errand*. You can find some lessons on these in the ESL Library – Search on "collocations". One of our tutors explained that her students loved working on these.

Good to Know

Tutor Hours Reporting

When responding to Liehua's request for tutor hours, please report the actual hours you remotely meet with your student (by phone, text, ZOOM, WhatsApp, SKYPE, Google Classroom, etc.) in the hours text box. In addition, you can include your tutor preparation time in the comment box. We know because of virtual meeting, some tutors are spending significant amounts of time preparing for their sessions with students and we would like to capture that time separately from reportable tutor hours.

Tutor Trainings

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts (LVM) is working with outside experts to try to re-design the tutor trainings (ESOL and Basic Literacy) for remote delivery. This would give us an option to train tutors regardless of face-to-face meeting restrictions. It is a significant undertaking and will take some time.

Student Assessments

Assessments of new and current students continue to be on hold while we await guidance from the state on how to administer the assessments remotely.

Face Masks

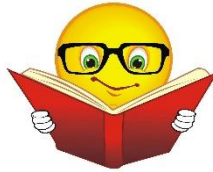
If you or a student need a face covering, email us at fplmail4@minlib.net with your student's and/or your name and phone number. The library will coordinate the mask pick-up.

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

It is high summer, yay. And right now I have OD'd on ZOOM meetings, virtual social gatherings, all things video and Covid-19. I am craving the tactile experience of holding a library book in my hands and reading it. Summer is the time when I don't feel guilty about reading for extended periods of time. I don't know exactly why that is. Maybe it is because it is hot and I am not motivated to do much else. Or maybe it's because back in my school years I could read all summer long because there were no studies to take priority. Anyway, to celebrate summer, I just put in my first request for a library book using curbside pick-up and watched the curbside Pick-up video here [FPL Curbside PickUp.](#) What fun! I can't wait to see who will bring the book out to my car. I am hoping for the dinosaur and will have my camera ready so I can document it as a COVID-19 story.



Stay cool, safe and healthy and enjoy the fine weather – being outside in the fresh air is really good for you and we've been waiting for it for a long time.

Happy 4th of July!

The next Newsy will be in your email on July 20th.

Karen