



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

Hi everyone,

### Changes to Our Tutor Meeting Lineup

Two things have become clear to us:

1. We have discussed and demoed many digital resources for our tutors since we physically closed the office in March. Many of our tutors have tried these digital tools but many have not. We would like to introduce more tutors to these helpful resources.
2. Our tutors are not all available on Tuesday afternoons for Tutor Technology meetings.

In response we are going to continue to meet on Tuesday afternoons for tutor technology but we will meet every other week and rather than introduce new digital resources we will focus, in more depth, on one or two already introduced resources. For example, we will discuss how the resource is being used in tutoring. We will also continue to meet on Thursday night but will meet every other week. The Thursday night Office Hours will continue to be an open discussion but will also include a redo of the previous Tutor Technology meeting if there is interest. See below for the schedule.

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
August 31	9/1 – Tutor Technology	
September 7		9/10 – Tutor Office Hours
September 14	9/15 – Tutor Technology	
September 21		9/24 – Tutor Office Hours

### New Resource List for Tutors

As mentioned above, we have suggested many digital resources to our tutors. We have compiled a list of all these resources into a document with live links and passwords. We have also highlighted those resources tutors have continually mentioned as being useful in their tutoring. We will be sending the list out this this Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> and posting it to the website. We shared the document last

Thursday night at Tutor Office Hours and based on the attendees reactions, we think you are going to find the list very useful. A **HUGE** thank-you to Marjie for pulling all of the content together into one document.

### **Weekly Conversation Classes**

It has been a couple of weeks since we introduced our new Conversation Class line-up. The evening classes continue to be very popular but we still have space in our special classes and the day classes. If you have a student who could benefit from attending one of the still open classes below, please let us know. <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/>

Beginner classes            Tuesday 11 - 12noon  
   Wednesday 2 - 3:30pm (children welcome!)  
   Thursday 3 - 4:30pm

Intermediate classes:  
   Wednesday 6-7pm (Focus on idioms);  
   Friday 10:30 - 12noon

Special classes:            Civics Monday 7 - 8:30pm  
   Book Club\* Wednesday 7-8:30pm  
   Fun with Pronunciation Friday 1 - 2:30pm

\* The book is Seedfolks available online here:

<http://stsimondicroce.blogspot.com/2013/09/novel-study-seedfolks-complete-text.html>

### **Good-bye to Mark Contois**

Friday was Mark Contois's last day as Framingham Public Library's Director. Mark was a long-time, enthusiastic supporter of Literacy Unlimited. Anne gave him a Literacy Unlimited new tutor tote bag and the "I Speak English" tutor reference book as a retirement gift. He mentioned at some point that maybe someday, when he retired, he might become a tutor. Here's hoping that he does decide to join us at some point! We wish him well in his much deserved retirement.

## **Tutor Meetings**

**Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday, September 1st at 2:00 PM** (*Next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>*)

Liehua will demonstrate how to load an ESL worksheet to a Google classroom.

Laurie will demonstrate how to play Kahoot! a game based learning platform. <https://kahoot.com/>

We would like the future topics for these meetings to be determined by our tutors. If you are interested in learning more about a specific technology or digital resource, or if you would be willing to share your experience using a digital resource, let us know. <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/>

**Virtual Office Hours for Tutors – Next meeting is Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 PM** (Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>)

The Agenda is open - all topics are welcome – it is always an interesting discussion. We usually discuss recent happenings at Literacy Unlimited and at the libraries as well as specific tutor challenges and successes. We will also be reviewing the topic from the previous Tutor Technology meeting for those who couldn't attend the Tuesday afternoon meeting.

## Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring

### Tutor Question:

**Question:** I sent a link to a NewsForYou online article but students couldn't open the link, why?

**Answer:** The digital version of NewsForYou requires a subscription and can only be accessed with a password. If you send your student(s) a link to an article you also have to send them the password.

### Last Tutor Technology Meeting – sites recommended by Tutors:

#### Creating Crossword Puzzles for Students

Did you ever think you could easily create a fun vocabulary crossword puzzle for your students? You can, you just enter the words and the clues and the app will create a crossword puzzle for you. You can try it out here:

<https://www.education.com/worksheet-generator/reading/crossword-puzzle/>

This is another option for making crossword puzzles:

<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/><https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

#### Really timely and Interesting News Articles

**Engoo** <https://engoo.com/app/daily-news> Engoo has beginner through advanced lessons in conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, as well as, describing pictures, speaking tests and Daily news. The Daily News section has intermediate to advanced articles with vocabulary, comprehension and discussion questions. The site is free, no signup necessary.

## Good to Know

### A Change Beginning September 1 for Reporting Tutor Hours

Beginning on September 1, tutors can report time that their student(s) spend preparing worksheets, writing, watching English videos, learning English using an app like Mango or Cell-Ed, etc. preparing for a tutor meeting. This time will be in addition to time spent with students in virtual tutor meetings, but it will need to be reported separately. Time spent in a virtual meeting with a student to “keep in touch” will no longer be reportable. We will provide more information on this change during the month of September.

## New Tutor Training

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts (LVM) continues to work on producing a virtual version of the New Tutor Training. A Beta training for a small group of new tutors is expected to be held in October. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming an ESOL tutor, please let them know they can register for training on our website here <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/become-a-tutor/>

## Student Assessments

We are currently identifying students who need to be tested and are scheduling testing appointments. Depending on the student's English proficiency level, they are being tested either online (higher proficiency) or with an audio test using the phone (lower proficiency).

Please assure students that their test results will have no impact on their participation in the program. Testing remotely is going to present challenges and we know that but students should be assured they should just try to do their best.

## Final Thoughts

Last time, we promised to share some of the tutor responses to the survey, so here are a few more. You can read more individual responses to our survey here on our website <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/>

*"I am finding this method of teaching very difficult. The lack of face to face is a real detriment to my style of communication. Planning always takes a very long time as I'm trying to find new ways to make it work better, without much success. The technical aspect (using zoom) is very challenging for me."*

*"I enjoy working with English learners while I do feel that in person contact is far superior to our digital format, I am very glad that we have it at this time in our lives."*

This is my favorite time of the year. September and October in New England represent the perfect balance of weather (warm days and cool nights), visual treats (changing leaves and green grass again), smells (pumpkin spice and wood smoke), sounds (crunching leaves), and tastes (garden grown tomatoes). For me it is also a time to reflect, pick apples and pick something to change going forward. I hope you will take a look at the digital resources list we will be sending this week and pick something new to try and that you will share your experience with us at a tutor meeting.

Hope to see you soon in one of our virtual meetings:

Karen