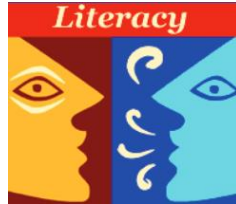


“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

November 30, 2020



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

Tutor Buddies – The current COVID impacted tutoring environment can be isolating and challenging. However, having a tutor “buddy” can help beat the isolation blues and if you had a tutor buddy they could be:

an audience for practice ZOOM meetings.

someone you could brainstorm with about lesson plans and using digital resources.

someone with which you could co-lead a ZOOM tutoring session with your students.

Interested? Let us know and we will try to match you with another interested tutor.

fplmail4@minlib.net

Citizen Workshop - There is a new US citizenship test being administered starting December 1st. We are planning to offer a Citizenship class early next year if there is enough student interest. If you know someone who might be interested, please let us know. fplmail4@minlib.net

Tutor Refresher Training Session - We are planning to offer a mini training session(s) with tips and resources (low tech as well as tech-rich approaches) for tutors training in the virtual world. These sessions would be for tutors who have not tutored in a while and want to get back to tutoring, or tutors who want to enhance their tutoring skills. If there is something you would like included in the training, please feel free to email us fplmail4@minlib.net

Donations in Honor of Anne - Thank-you!

The donations to Literacy Unlimited in Anne’s honor were overwhelming. Although the numbers aren’t finalized yet, you contributed over \$ 4,100.00. I know Anne is more than grateful and is thinking about how she would like to put the donations to good use. More details will be coming on the final amount and how Anne decides to spend the money.

Upcoming Tutor Meetings

We continue to meet every other Tuesday afternoon for tutor technology. And on alternating weeks we meet on Thursday nights for Tutor office hours. See below for ZOOM meeting information.

Week of:	Tuesday	Thursday
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November 30	12/01 – Tutor Technology	
December 7		12/10 – Tutor Office Hours
December 14	12/15 – Tutor Technology	
December 21		No meeting – Happy Holidays

Weekly Conversation Classes

We are always interested in new ideas for conversation classes. If you are interested in leading a new conversation class or have an idea for a special conversation class (i.e., limited duration and/or specific topic), contact us. Fplmail4@minlib.net

We are scheduled to start a new Beginner Conversation class on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM beginning on December 10th. Thank-you to Lucy Costa who will be leading this group.

Tutor Meetings

If you have used a specific resource(s) for tutoring, we would really like to have you share your experience with other tutors. Similarly, if you are interested in learning more about a specific technology or digital resource, let us know Fplmail4@minlib.net We would like to plan our tutor meetings based on your feedback so they meet your needs.

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday, December 1st at 2:00 PM

Laurie Christie will explain how you can use music/songs and how to incorporate a writing exercise as part of your tutoring sessions or in conversation classes.

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday, December 15st at 2:00 PM

Topic(s) to be determined by tutors and conversation class leaders. Please let us know if there is a topic or technology you would like to explore.

Virtual Office Hours for Tutors – Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 PM

The Agenda is open - all topics are welcome – it is always an interesting discussion.

Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring

Easy English News – We have a paid subscription to this service and would like your feedback as to how you use it with your students. The December newsletter on the website.

You can find the December Teacher’s Guide and Quiz here [December 2020 Easy English NEWS Monthly Teacher's Guide and Quiz – Elizabeth Claire's Easy English NEWS](#)

Good to Know

Reporting Tutor Hours

We have had a couple of questions about reporting hours. Here is refresher.

There are two categories for reporting tutor hours: Virtual hours and Proxy hours. Here are the instructions that explain the two categories.

Virtual Hours includes the time a student and tutor are present at the same time but are not present at the same location (i.e., virtual face-to-face meeting) as well as time related to the virtual face-to-face meeting. Hours can include but are not limited to:

1. Instruction provided by phone or text, with or without video;
2. Instruction provided by teleconferencing platform (e.g., ZOOM, SKYPE, cellphone or any other platform which includes video for the tutor and student);
3. Instruction provided by mail or email;
4. Student time spent on assignments sent to them by the tutor by mail or email (please estimate the time that your student spent on the work and add it to your virtual hours.)
5. Follow-up between tutor and student by phone, email or text.

Proxy Hours are not directly related to your tutoring sessions but are directly related to your student learning and practicing English skills. It is optional to collect these additional hours.

This is the time that a student spends working independent of direct instruction, using an online product (e.g., AZTEC, VOXY, KET, USA Learns, Cell-Ed, DuoLingo, Mango Languages, etc). Please estimate the time spent on task.

If you have questions about hours feel free to email us at fplmail4@minlib.net

Final Thoughts

One of the greatest gifts you can give to someone is literacy. The article “**First-of-its-kind study finds ‘stunning’ earnings gains for immigrants who learn English**” by Katie Johnston appeared in the Boston Globe on November 23rd quantifying the economic benefits of learning English.

This time of year is the perfect time to thank-you for all you do for our students. We are so grateful for all of our students, tutors, conversation class leaders, advisory board, the Framingham and Natick Public Libraries, all of our staff, our donors and everyone else for all they do to keep giving the gift of Literacy to all our students.

Hope you have a great week and stay healthy and safe,

Karen