

## "Newsy" the Tutor Newsletter - March 26, 2020

Wow...we are adapting and trying to "build a sense of community" without face to face contact! It's a challenge but we are up to it as the updates below will attest. You will read about tutors and classroom teachers who are finding ways to connect with students in a variety of ways.

**Brief Survey – Please respond:** Included with this month's email requesting tutor hours, we are including a brief survey. Please, please respond and give us your opinions, insights, questions, whatever so we can support you more intelligently.

We really want to hear from you, so please let us know how you are doing and/or if we can help in any way. It is going to be a long slog to get through this, but we are so fortunate in having a brilliant (that's you) community to work with.

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### ***What's Happening at Literacy Unlimited While we are "CLOSED"***

We are practicing social distancing but not social isolation! We have been talking on the phone, emailing each other, and video conferencing with tutors, conversation class leaders, and students.

We've learned a lot, and we are still learning, but that is what makes it interesting. For example, access to technology by both students and tutors is a big determiner as to how to connect with each other. Individuals may not have access to the internet, they may not have cameras on their devices, they be using flip phones, or they may not be familiar with video conferencing software. But they are still connecting and below we give you some ideas for connecting with students based on our tutors' experiences.

Some of the **English conversation classes** are being held. If you have a student who might benefit from participation in a Conversation class, please let us know by email [fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net). We will forward the meeting information to them. Here are the classes that are currently being held some using video conferencing, some not:

Beginner:       Thursdays 1:00PM – 2:30PM

Intermediate:   Tuesdays 1:00PM – 2:30PM

                      Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30PM

Advanced:       Wednesdays 7:00PM – 8:30PM

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### ***Coronavirus – Making the Best of It***

**"Life Under Lockdown – A message from Wuhan, China"**

A few of you mentioned that you really liked Liehua's "Tips from China" in last week's Newsy. Here is an article that Peggy Holland (Liehua's tutor) came across written by a general manager at a travel agency in Wuhan, China explaining his family's experience so far. I expect it will sound both familiar and hopeful to you. Enjoy!

<https://www.oattravel.com/community/the-inside-scoop/the-buzz/life-under-lockdown>

**Please join us in a weekly call-in for Tutors via Zoom:**

**Tuesday, March 31, at 2:00PM**

This is a weekly call for tutors to keep in touch, share their successes, learnings, failures, brainstorm ideas, and have some laughs. If you haven't tried video conferencing, this is your chance. Give it a try – on Tuesday we had 14 participants - we had fun and learned a lot.

To join the meeting, download the free Zoom app and follow the prompts after clicking the link below just before the meeting starts. If you don't have video capability, you can just call into the meeting. Let us know if you want some help.

Meeting information:

Topic: Tutor Get-together

Time: Mar 31, 2020 02:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/870758748>

Meeting ID: 870 758 748

**You can also just call in to the meeting:**

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 870 758 748

## **Ideas for Connecting with Your Students**

Here are some suggestions for connecting with your students.

Technology required: phone and email/snail mail OR a smart phone

Call or text your student and ask how they are doing. Find out if they need help (e.g., filing for unemployment, understanding the Covid-19 requirements, answering the census, etc.). If you need help answering their questions, contact us as we do have information on these questions.

Ask them if they would like to work on their English skills over the next couple of weeks. If yes, you can create your own stories, worksheets, writing prompts, etc. or download stories and/or

worksheets from the ESL library or NewsForYouOnline and send them to your student. You can either have them send the completed worksheets back to you or you can work on them together over the phone.

These suggestions for remote learning came from several of our tutors who are using some variation of this with their students.

To get to the ESL library:

Website: [www.ESLLibrary.com](http://www.ESLLibrary.com)

To get to NewsforYouOnline:

[www.NewsForYouOnline.com](http://www.NewsForYouOnline.com)

## **Resources For Your Students**

We are receiving lots of information from the Library, the Mayor, and from other sources about things related to Covid-19. If your student has a specific question, let us know and we will try to get you an answer.

### **Unemployment claim information**

DUA will be hosting daily town hall meetings where constituents will be taken through a step by step process of achieving a successful unemployment claim and taking questions from claimants across the Commonwealth.

Here's the URL to get more info on the Town Halls:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts-department-of-unemployment-assistance-dua-virtual-town-halls>

Here are the dates they are held:

- Thursday, March 26, 11:30AM
- Friday, March 27, 9:00AM

Here's the URL for submitting a contact request form to DUA:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/covid-19-department-of-unemployment-assistance-contact-request>

## **Office Happenings**

Literacy Unlimited is closed until at least April 9, 2020 due to the Coronavirus. As soon as we know more, we will let you know.

Reminder: Although we are working from home, we do have access to our database, email, and voicemail and can give you student or tutor contact information if you need it.