

## “Newsy” the Tutor Newsletter - April 9, 2020

One of the things that we have learned from our surveys and ZOOM meetings is that tutors and conversation leaders have **different skills in using technology!** Check it in the results from our survey! <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/> In addition to different abilities, we are all using newer options like ZOOM or the digital version of ESL library. If you would like to volunteer to work with a fellow tutor to train and test newer technologies, please let us know. If you are interested in getting help with different forms of technology, don't hesitate to let us know! We are skilled at the magic of matching and will work with you to find the best fit.

### **Reaching out to Our Community**

We have several volunteers who are attempting to check-in with all of our tutors and conversation leaders by phone. Please note that these volunteers are using their cellphones and the numbers will not be familiar to you. There are over 200 of you, so it may take a while, but we are really interested in how you are doing and what we can do to support you and your students.

### **Literacy Unlimited Website**

Liehua is doing great work posting content to the website and allowing me to keep “Newsy” as short as possible. Go ahead and check the website frequently for new content – we have added some new pages as well as refreshed the Literacy Unlimited Home page. Also, if **you want to share “Newsy”** with students and others, great, BUT please direct them to the version that is posted on our website (link below). The website version (i.e., the public version) has been “scrubbed” of subscription IDs and Passwords that should not be shared outside our community.

<https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/>

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

### **Weekly Conversation Classes**

The following 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). The conversation leader will forward the meeting information to them.

Some of these classes use 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

**Weekly Technology Meeting:** This is a weekly meeting to discuss technology and digital options for use in the classroom or for one-to-one tutoring. Next week's meeting will feature a discussion of “Google Classroom”. Unlike ZOOM or Skype, Google Classroom is not an interactive meeting application, it is an

application that could be used to assign lessons to students (including lessons or worksheets you create) and track progress. It could be suitable for one-to-one tutors as well as conversation class leaders.

**Tuesday, April 14, at 2:00 PM**

Meeting information:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/188240261?pwd=UytPUzRpSmE0aTRjZVJVNXAxdGFWdz09>

Meeting ID: 188 240 261

Password: 586848

Dial in by using one of these numbers:

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 188 240 261

Password: 586848

**Weekly Tutor Get-together:** This is a weekly meeting (using video conferencing or call-in, your choice) for tutors to support each other and to share tutoring ideas while maintaining social distancing.

**Thursday, April 16, at 7:00 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/949675160?pwd=M3ZUL2lrZmtJRnBTOVJVSXJEN05EUT09>

Meeting ID: 949 675 160

Password: 183077

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 949 675 160

Password: 183077

#### **About Video Conferencing and ZOOM**

To join the meeting with video, download the free app and follow the prompts after clicking the meeting link just before the meeting starts. If you don't have video capability, you can just call into the meeting.

Because ZOOM has seen such meteoric usage rise due to work-at-home activity, the application has been in the Media a lot recently. There have been reports about security issues; however, these can be mitigated by using the “waiting room” feature when scheduling meetings. You should use whatever video conferencing application works for you and your student. For now, we will continue to use ZOOM for our Literacy Unlimited meetings using our paid subscription through the Framingham Public library.

## **Ideas for Working with Your Students**

Based on the tutor meetings and the survey responses, many of you are connecting with your students in a variety of ways based on the tutor’s and the student’s situation. For example, we have **a student currently in Brazil participating in one of our conversation classes** using email and ZOOM! If you are interested in what other tutors are up to, join our weekly tutor get-together meetings.

If you are looking for ways to jumpstart your lessons with students, here are some ideas:

**Easy English NEWS:** a monthly newsletter that is currently free.

<https://www.elizabethclaire.com/> Click on the yellow banner at the top for the April issue.

For the teacher's guide, cloze exercises, audio recordings of several of the April articles, and links to Youtube videos to provide visual input for the articles go here

<https://www.elizabethclaire.com/> and click on the “Teacher Aids” tab and choose from the drop down menu.

**ESL Library:** New lessons added including: COVID-19 Vocabulary and Health Matters, Social Distancing, and Internet Banking. <https://esllibrary.com/blog/new-2020>

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

**Literacy Unlimited Website:** COVID-19 ideas (including a great new compilation of distance learning ideas from ProLiteracy). <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/covid-19-ideas/>

**ReadWorks:** Demo tonight, Thursday, April 9 at 7:00PM during the Weekly Tutor Get-Together.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/690239527?pwd=cjhlbVFBbGJRbHBGaDh3MHlOaFJFdz09>

**Meeting ID: 690 239 527**

**Password: 328679**

Dial in by phone

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 690 239 527

## **Resources For Your Students**

We continue to receive information from the Library, the Mayor, and from other sources about things related to COVID-19. If your student has a specific question or need, let us know and we will try to get you an answer.

## **Office Happenings**

### **Reminders:**

Please keep track of the time you spend with your student – these are reportable. This includes: phone calls, texts, emails, and of course virtual conferencing time (e.g., Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, etc.).

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.

The 2020 census is here and it is so important that everyone complete their census form. We continue to post information about it on our website here

<https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/census/>

I continue to have good days and bad days, and the last couple of days have not been the best. So I have nothing suitable for sharing today. Instead, I have a survey question for you. Please take a moment to answer this one question survey - we'll share the results next week.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMCYLNY>

## **A Big Thank-you!**

I want to take a moment to thank all of you who help me put this weekly newsletter together. Anne is my much needed editor, Liehua works tirelessly behind the scenes to update the website and complete many other tasks, Marjie always offers to help with anything, and our most wonderful volunteers always step-up to help. By sharing your ideas, questions and comments, by participating in our surveys, and by volunteering you provide the content. This would not be possible without each of your contributions.