

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

June, 2021



Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



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Hi everyone,

Hello June and hello summer! Change is in the air and not only because of the season change, but also with the relaxation and removal of many pandemic restrictions. Many of us are experiencing things that we were not able to do last June or for the last 15 months. And not to be left out, Literacy is changing a few things too. Read on for what we are thinking and doing.

### **Literacy Re-opening**

We know you are anxious to hear about when and how we will re-open. We have nothing definitive to report yet, but discussions with LVM are well underway. Although the Framingham Library is relaxing pandemic restrictions in line with Massachusetts, Literacy Unlimited is following guidelines set by Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts and remains closed for in-person activities until further notice.

However, we think we may be able to hold an outdoor social event this summer. Stay tuned for some kind of outdoor event in August or September.

### **Changes to Recurring Tutor Meetings**

Based on comments from tutors, we are changing the format of these meetings. Going forward they will be on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 PM and will include both time to catch-up on what is going on with Literacy and other tutors (i.e., tutor office hours content) **AND** demonstrations and examples of how tutor’s use technology in tutoring (i.e., tutor technology content). The Tuesday afternoon demonstration will repeat the following week at a Wednesday or Thursday night session. See times and schedules below.

We’ve called the new meetings “Tutor Time” but we would really like your suggestions for a name.

## Tutor Tune-up Advanced

Are you interested in more advanced features of Zoom like the “annotate” functions, the whiteboard and how to share videos? If you are relatively comfortable with the basic functions of Zoom including “screen sharing” then Tutor Tune-up Advanced is for you. See below for meeting date and time information.

## Volunteers to Help with the Student Waitlist

We have many students technically on our waitlist with whom we haven’t been in contact with for a while. We need volunteers to contact students and either update their information or complete a student intake form. All contact with students will be remote using phone, email, or Zoom (i.e., to complete a new student intake form). If you have time in June or July to help us out, please let us know: [fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net)

## Scheduled Tutor Meetings

### June Tutor Meetings

We will meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 PM for Tutor Time and a repeat of the session the following week at an evening meeting. This month we will also have a Tutor tune-up Advanced meeting in the evening. The Zoom links and descriptions of the meeting topics are below.

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
June 7	Tutor Time (1)		
June 14			Tutor Time (1) <b>Repeat</b>
June 21	Tutor Time (2)		Tutor Tune-Up - Advanced
June 28		Tutor Time (2) <b>Repeat</b>	

### Tutor Time (1) – Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM

We will start the meeting with a brief overview of happenings at Literacy and check-in with tutors.

Then Laurie will show us how to use some of the Library’s remote resources with your student. These options could be used by you in your tutoring sessions or could be used during the week by a student to practice their English. Topics could include getting a library card, using mango, borrowing e-books and magazines, virtual browsing, remote programming (e.g., Spanish Yoga class), etc.

If you have used Library resources with your student let us know. We would love to have you share with other tutors.

### **Tutor Time (1) REPEAT – Thursday, June 17 at 7:00 PM**

We will repeat the Tutor Time (1) session described above. If you attend Tutor Time (1) on June 8<sup>th</sup> there is no reason to attend this repeat session.

### **Tutor Time (2) – Tuesday, June 22<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**

We will start the meeting with a brief overview of happenings at Literacy and check-in with tutors.

Some tutors have expressed interest in an online forum for sharing expertise, experiences, resources, etc. with other tutors.

Laurie, Elyse, and Karen will demonstrate some options for a tutor forum. Our goal is to find a platform that is easy to use and access, allows tutors to interact with the site, and has some way of organizing the resources and notifying tutors intelligently of updates.

### **Tutor Time (2) Repeat – Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

We will repeat the Tutor Time (2) session explained above. If you attend Tutor Time (2) on June 22<sup>nd</sup> there is no reason to attend this repeat session.

## **Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring**

### **Tutor Tune-up Advanced – Thursday, June 24 at 6:30 PM**

IT Mike and staff will show us some advanced features of Zoom. We will demonstrate some activities to use with students and have time for tutors to practice their new skills. We will have ample time for questions at the end.

## **Good to Know – For Students**

### **Book Group**

Book group will start in July. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. This special conversation class is for intermediate and above English learners. If you have a student who may be interested, let us know: [fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net)

## **Good to Know – For Tutors**

### **Student Testing**

A huge shout-out to tutors, staff, and volunteers who have assisted with the student testing effort. We have completed testing for about 50% of our eligible students. If your student is scheduled for testing please reassure them that while the test is important, the results will not impact their participation in the program.

### **Tutor Buddies**

A tutor buddy is a tutor who is working with, or has worked with a student(s), and who is willing to lend guidance and support to a new tutor for a short period of time. We have a new group of tutors who will become certified toward the end of June and we anticipate that at least some of them would like to be paired with a tutor buddy. If you would like to be a tutor buddy, and haven't let us know in the recent past, please contact us:

[fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net)

### **Conversation Class Leader or Support Class Leader**

Conversation classes continue to be popular with our students. If you are interested in becoming a conversation class leader, or would like to help support a conversation class leader please let us know: [fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net) There are many options for times, level, duration and topics. We would like to add more classes as there are many students on our waiting list.

### **Share your Tutor Experience with Other Tutors**

Are you using an application (e.g., crossword labs, flashcard maker, etc.)? Are you using videos, songs, virtual shopping sites, etc. in your tutoring? If so, other tutors would like to hear about your experiences and we would love to add you to one or more of our upcoming meetings.

If you would like to share your experience or have a suggestion for a topic for a tutor meeting, let us know: [fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net)

## **Final Thoughts**

Whew, this is another long Newsy. It is exciting and refreshing to emerge from the pandemic restrictions. Each day seems to include an activity, something large or small, that I haven't done since the pandemic. Last week I physically browsed the bookshelves at the Library for the first time since February 2020. It would take a page to express the range of emotions I experienced being able to do this beloved activity once again. The bottom line though is that it is truly great to again experience the small things in life that we took for granted before the pandemic, lost with the restrictions, and now are able to experience again.

I hope all of you have a chance to experience these re-acquaintances, big and small, in the coming weeks.

Karen