



Director's Corner

Hello Everyone!

This autumn finds us scurrying to secure funds for 2004. We have applied for over \$128,000 in the last couple of months from various sources, please keep your fingers crossed for us!

For some good news for a change, I would like to share with you some advances we are making to provide technology assisted learning here at the Literacy Council. We recently received a technology grant from the SBC Foundation. This grant will allow us to have a mini computer lab in the current tutor rooms to support student learning. We will be setting up the computers this fall and installing various learning software for both our ESL and ABE students to use either on their own, or with a tutor during a lesson. Staff with the Literacy Council will be trained to use the software and will instruct tutors and students how to use the software.

We hope to provide a comprehensive training to all students and tutors interested in working with the software beginning in 2004. We would like to thank the SBC Foundation for their donation in advancing our technology plan to support our students allowing us to provide more opportunities for our students to learn. We will keep you posted about the development of this project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ellis
Executive Director

Aurora Health Care Sponsors 2004 Spelling Bee

The Winnebago County Literacy Council would like to invite you to attend our Third Annual Corporate Spelling Bee, "How Do You Spell Chocolate?" This is our most important fundraising event of 2004. It provides local businesses with an opportunity to let their brightest employees shine by competing with other agencies in the community in a fun, old-fashioned spelling bee. In 2003, the Post-Crescent's team won the Bee and took the win away from the reigning champs, the Aurora Health Care team. Previous to the Aurora team taking home the win was the Oshkosh Public Library. Come and watch to see who will win the Bee in 2004!

While we don't have all of the details tightened up just yet, we have made some headway related to some of the main logistics of the event: 1) The location will be warm!!! 2) It will be held at the Oshkosh Public Library under the dome. 3) It will be during the day, approximately 2-5 p.m. 4) There will be free chocolate and a silent auction. 5) We tentatively will be holding it on Saturday, February 21st, 2004.

It's a great, grownup spelling bee with rules, and judges, and a spell caller just waiting to trip you up on a difficult word! The winning team will receive a trophy and plaque; the plaque will be a "traveling" plaque that will follow the winners of future spelling bees. Many thanks go out to Aurora Health Care for their commitment and dedication in supporting the event and the cause of adult literacy!

Inside this issue:

Tutor Article: Action Research	2
WCLC Website Update	2
Spotlight on Student Writing	3
WCLC Holiday Wishlist	3
Tutor Potluck—Dec 11th	3
New Tutors/Special Thanks	3
WCLC Board/WCLC Staff	4

Upcoming Events:

- *Child Tutor Training Workshop - November 15, from 12 pm to 4 pm. Call Amanda to register.*
- *Adult Tutor Training Workshop - December 2, 4, and 5, from 4 pm to 8:30 pm. Call Anne to register.*
- *Holiday Tutor In-service/Potluck - December 11, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call Anne to register.*
- *Child Tutor Training Workshop - January 10, from 12 pm to 4 pm. Call Amanda to register.*
- *2004 WCLC Corporate Spelling Bee and Silent Auction - February 21 from 2-5 pm (date and time tentative) - held at Oshkosh Public Library.*

Tutor Article—Action Research

Do you want to boost your confidence, realize your focus as a tutor, develop a deeper understanding of the practices you use, and learn about the way you teach so you can improve over time?

My name is Judy Mehn. I have been a tutor for an adult student at the Winnebago County Literacy Council since 1999. I am currently a graduate student at UW-Oshkosh. My classes have been very helpful in assisting me with my tutoring at WCLC. It is my desire to share with you one of the ways a devoted tutor, like you, can build action research into your tutoring experience. Action research is also referred to as teacher research, teacher inquiry, or practitioner research.

How do you go through the process of action research?

- **Decide what issue will be the focus of your action research.**
- **Find the necessary resources (WCLC staff or I might be able to help you with this) to give you information on the area you choose to address.**
- **Plan for new types of learning activities.**
- **Implement the plan.**
- **Note how the plan is working or not working during your tutoring sessions.**
- **Analyze the trends and insights found in your documentation.**
- **Repeat the process!**

Throughout action research you will develop questions based on your own curiosity about tutoring and learning with your student. To **decide** what to concentrate on for your action research you will need to consider your current instruction and find areas you would like to improve upon, like setting goals. My action research question is, “How can goal setting help my student get a job?” Here you will examine assumptions about your tutoring and the learning that occurs. The next step is to **find resources**. I used the “PEP” goals and some hand-outs from WCLC relating to goals to help me in my research. I also used texts from my university course to research how to include my student in the process of creating our goals and discussed these issues with my colleagues. To **plan** for success, it is necessary to be flexible. Take chances and stay open minded by trying new things.

Prepare a way to keep track of your documentation to allow you to spot the trends and effects of the changes so you can alter your instruction accordingly. **Implement the plan** by collecting data from *and with* your student(s). This will provide you with the information you will need to analyze and interpret the results of your research. Sharing and writing about the results of your research allows you to develop ideas and gain insight, enabling you to give the best instruction to your student(s)...and they deserve it.

Action research is a continual process. Chances are, when the action research question is being studied, many more questions or directions for future action research will come to your attention. Action research provides a way to continually improve upon your practices. With action research, you and your student are always improving!

Collaborating with others is an important part of the action research process. If you have any questions regarding action research, please feel free to contact me, Judy Mehn, at (920) 235-4306, or Mehns@charter.net. Best wishes, and Good Luck!

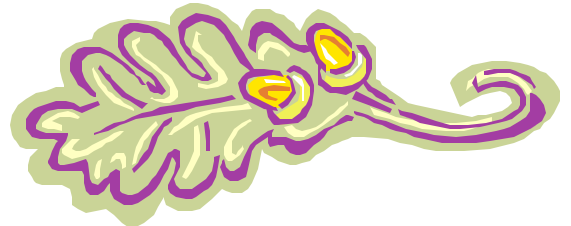
WCLC Website Update: www.winlit.org

Have you visited us online yet? Why not!? Check out www.winlit.org, the new internet home of the Winnebago County Literacy Council. On our website, you can find information about our mission, contact info for our staff, a listing of our Board members, links to agencies and organizations that we collaborate with, and helpful information for your students. Besides all of that, you can check out our two newest features: a printable monthly attendance report (due by the 10th of every month, don't forget!), and a searchable calendar that lists all of our upcoming events, including tutor training dates and in-service dates.

We hope to include more features on our website, but we need your help! Please let us know what you would like to see: some links to helpful sites? Some lesson plan ideas? More info about our agency? We want to make this website very usable for our tutors and students.

If you have ideas or suggestions (or you just want to tell us how nice it looks!), call us at 236-5185 or email Lisa at ellis@winlit.org.

Do you have something you would like to contribute to our newsletter? Please call Amanda at 236-5219 ext. 4802 for details.



Student Writing

A story by Gary F.: (Illustration by Gary's tutor, Karen!)

We went up North. It was snowing.
We saw a raccoon and a reindeer
drinking coffee in the snow.



A poem by Brian T.:

Let go of war
For if war dies
Life is happiness.
Let go of war
For when war is destroyed
Life is peaceful.

WCLC Holiday Wishlist

Reams of White Copier Paper
New 3-Ring Binders
Pocket Folders and Spiral Notebooks
VCR Player/Recorder
Cassette Player or Portable Boombox
Pens and Pencils
Color Markers
Color Copy Paper
Crayons
Disposable Cameras
Photo Albums
Pizza Coupons
Ice Cream Coupons
Journals
2004 Calendars
Coloring books
Chamber Gift Certificates
Educational Games
New or Very, Very Gently Used Children's Books
Recipe Books for Adults and Children

*To make a tax-deductible donation,
please call Lisa at 236-5185.*

Tutor Potluck Event—December 11th!

*To register:
Call Anne at 236-5219 ext. 4830
by December 4th.*

Please come and join us for a fun potluck gathering and idea sharing. Bring a dish to pass and ideas to exchange. It is a time to share your challenges and how you overcame them. There will be resources for new tutors to come and take, and veteran tutors to bring and share ideas and experiences.

I guarantee you a night of fun—come and find out what we mean! It is scheduled for December 11, 2003 from 5:30-7:30 PM. We look forward to seeing all of you hard working tutors at this gathering. Any questions, feel free to contact Anne at 236-5219 ext. 4830.

Special Thanks To...

Bonnie Jean Wolfgram	Renee Sengele
Neil Lorge	Oshkosh Public Library
Bernard Olejniczak	SBC Foundation
Sue Wallace	Virginia Nelson
Morton Drug Company	Beatrice Becker / Allenville Grange
Joseph Bauer	Jeannie McBeth—OPL
Amy Gauger	Winn. County Human Services Wellness Association



Our newest tutors!

Thank you and welcome to the newest members of the WCLC family!

Joseph Bauer	Hajira Buser	Brenda Yogerst	Sharon Ziebert	Ginny Tawawili
Rosie Buser	Carrie Caldwell	Renee Sengele	Amy Gauger	

To find out more about volunteering, or to register for a training workshop, please call Amanda at 236-5219 ext. 4802. Upcoming training dates are listed on page 1 of this newsletter. All tutors must complete a training workshop before being placed with a student.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

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Our Mission: *To help adults and their families develop and improve skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and mathematics; so that they may be empowered to become active and informed community members and citizens.*