

Literacy News

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Upcoming Events

Please call Amanda to register for any of the following:

- May 1, 12-4 pm: Child Tutor Training Workshop.
- May 3, 11 am and 5:30 pm: Orientation Session.
- May 17, 19, 24, and 26, 5:30-8:30 pm each night: Adult Tutor Training Workshop.
- May 20, 11 am and 5:30 pm: Orientation Session.
- June 7, 11 am and 5:30 pm: Orientation Session.
- June 15, 17, 22, and 24, 9:30 am-12:30 pm each morning: Adult Tutor Training Workshop.
- June 18th, 11 am and 5:30 pm: Orientation Session.
- June 19th: Human Race Fundraiser, Appleton.

Winnebago County Literacy Council

Director's Corner

Happy Spring! I am pleased to announce that the Winnebago County Literacy Council has recently acquired a variety of literacy learning software through the Oshkosh Public Library. This extensive library of computer software can be used to teach and learn the English language and increase basic literacy skills. Areas covered are basic spelling, reading, writing, math, pronunciation, using the computer, and citizenship. Many of the programs include the ability to track and evaluate student's progress in specific areas and allows for developing individualized program and learning plans for students.

This new tool for learning was made possible both in part by the Oshkosh Public Library and a grant awarded to WCLC from the SBC Foundation. The SBC Foundation provided WCLC with monies to upgrade staff computers for use in the "SBC Computer Center", and allowed for the purchasing of new computers for WCLC employees. This information is being provided to you as a preview of what is to come. Once all systems are "a go" we will be offering training opportunities for students and tutors to learn more about how the software can be used.

Learning software that will be available:

Discover the computer (Teaches computer basics.) **The factory mystery** (Adventure/strategy game used to improve English language, grammar, math, and basic life skills.) **Oxford Picture Dictionary Interactive** (Very interactive sound and visual activities to identify objects, speak and spell. Activities maintain scoring system for later review.) **Road to Citizenship** (Evaluates eligibility for US citizenship and prepares students for citizenship testing.) **Star Spell 2** (Interactive teaching tool for spelling English words. Multiple word lists, levels, and student tracking.) **The Alphabet International** (Teaches the alphabet, spell-

ing, letter recognition and keyboarding skills.) **The International Picture Dictionary** (Tests for spelling and vocabulary, tracks student progress.) **The Learning Company – Learn to Speak English** (Can track students, select lessons, customize levels. Contains dictionary and grammar tutor, slang, cultural comparisons, proverbs.) **Who is Oscar Lake – ESL** (Mystery adventure game that teaches words, sentences, and ESL concepts.) **Real Achievement Solutions – ESL Basic Literacy** (Multi-module ESL applications, can setup and track students and classes, very straight forward lessons.) **Learning Styles Inventory** (Test to determine best style of learning and teaching that a student responds to.) **Educational Activities 2010** (Interactive sound and video lessons for everyday activities.) **Easy Accent** (42-minute video that demonstrates accenting English words.) **ABC Pronunciary** (Demonstrates pronunciation of letters and sounds of combined letters.) **The Rosetta Stone** (Very in-depth application covering all aspects of ESL through student interaction, picture, video, and builds on past performance and accomplishments.)

All programs support sound and video presentation and many allow for voice recognition and verbal input by students. Most are customizable for individual student needs and allow tracking of student progress and reporting. We hope people get excited about this new way to support learning for our students!

A special thank you is due to Dan Pagel, who has freely volunteered hours of his time in setting up the computer systems and programs. Thanks Dan!

Sincerely,
Lisa Ellis

Post-Crescent Reigning Spelling Bee Champs Two Years in a Row

Jerry Burke from WBAY Channel 2 was the emcee on Saturday, February 21st, where seven local companies battled it out to see which had the best spellers. Teams involved in this year's event were: The Oshkosh Public Library, 4-Imprint, The Oshkosh Northwestern, Affinity Health Systems, The Post-Crescent, WI Public Service/Richard's and Aurora Health Care who also supported the overall event with a Corporate Sponsorship donation of \$5,000. Last year's event raised around \$4,000 and this year our net profit was \$9,088! Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event!

Members of the audience enjoyed free chocolate samplings from area chocolate vendors such as The Fox Valley Cheesecake Company, The Oshkosh Shoppe, La Sure's, and Lara's Tortilla Flats. Thank you to our judges County Executive, Jan Van De Hey, and WCLC Board Member, Joan Simmons. Thank you to Anchor Bank for donating decorations that truly made the event look festive. Another big hit at this year's event were the vast items up for bid at our silent auction, thank you to all who donated and bid on items to support the event! *(See '04 Bee Photos inside–Page 2!)*

Literacy Council Receives Grant from Women's Fund

The Women's Fund Grant and the Helaine Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation recently awarded funding for the Winnebago County Literacy Council's Family Literacy Program. The purpose of the project is to provide family literacy workshops and tutoring opportunities in collaboration with the OPL and Head Start, to high-risk families in Oshkosh that promotes parents, no matter how low their current literacy level is, as being their children's primary teacher.

The total amount awarded for this program is \$5,000. Grant activities will run through April 1st, 2004 to December 31st, 2004. For more information about this and other literacy programs please call 236-5185, or visit us on the

web at www.winlit.org.

In 2002, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation awarded \$1.6 million in grants to charitable organizations. Established in 1928, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation administers more than 180 individual, family, corporate and agency charitable funds, with a combined value of 34 million. The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation serves Winnebago, Waushara, and Green Lake Counties. More information about the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation can be viewed at www.OshkoshAreaCF.org.

Tips for Tutors—Techniques for Learning Disabilities

Here are some ideas for teaching a student who may have a learning disability (from Learning Disabilities Association of America):

1. For a student who reads slowly or with difficulty, try reading a book and listening to the words on tape at the same time.
2. For students with short term memory problems, use a table or chart with the most important facts, or use a calculator when doing math.
3. To teach spelling, use a multisensory approach which combines saying, spelling aloud, and writing words.
4. For those whose handwriting is slow or hard to read, using a tape recorder or a computer with word processing may be helpful.
5. For students who seem to process auditory information slowly, be patient. Allow a lot of 'wait time' for an answer, or provide the questions in written format.
6. Oral and written language should be taught together as much as possible. Use lots of pictures to illustrate what you are reading!

Thanks and Welcome to our Newest Tutors:

*Julie Russo
Marcy Dempsey
Cathy Lehndorf
Jill Wiske
Ryan Murphy
Ross Bielema
Jim Barthel
Lila Boucher
Jenny Huedner*

Without our volunteer literacy tutors, we would not be able to serve the adults and families in Winnebago County. For more information on becoming a volunteer tutor, please call Amanda. Upcoming workshop dates are listed on page 1.

Photo Highlights from 2004 Corporate Spelling Bee Event!

4-Imprint team posing with our Emcee, Jerry Burke

The Oshkosh Northwestern team takes a moment to rest after a long day of spelling

Edie Millar, representing the WPS/Richards team

Camille Zizzo from Aurora Health, thinking carefully!

Appleton Post-Crescent team, with Bee winner, Kara Patterson



UW-O Culture and Education Conference: April 23 and 24

UW-Oshkosh is presenting its fourth annual Language, Culture, and Education Institute here in Oshkosh at the Convention Center, downtown. This annual conference, designed for educators of all types (that includes you, tutors!), highlights programs, methods, developments, etc that are specific to the ESL population. A variety of breakout sessions focus on topics such as: Multicultural Storytelling, Using Feedback to Promote Learning, ESL Assessments, Hmong Language Literacy, and many more.

Also featured at the conference is a vendor display with resource books and materials for educators. Keynote speakers will address the crowd on both days of the conference. You can choose to attend Friday or Saturday only, or both days.

This is a great personal development opportunity that we want to pass along to our volunteers. For more info on the conference, including times and cost, please call Amanda or go to: www.uwosh.edu/cont_ed/noncred.htm.

Fast Facts:

- *In the city of Oshkosh, 12% of the adult population is at Level 1 literacy.*
- *In Winnebago County, 13% of the adults aged 25 years or older have not obtained a high school diploma.*
- *There are 1216 people in Winnebago County who reported that they speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'.*

Spotlight on Student Writing

The following story was written by Skender R., with his tutor Lynette S.:

My name is Skender and I was a teacher of High School Physical Education in Kosovo (formerly Yugoslavia). I came to the United States with my wife and two children on June 1, 1999. This is a story of my time as a student in Junior College in Yugoslavia.

There were classes in my area of study for learning about and practicing track activities, basketball, soccer, handball, volleyball, skiing, swimming, gymnastics, etc. We had other non-sports related classes of psychology, sociology, pedagogy, etc. conducted in large auditoriums because there were many students attending this school. Other areas of studies included the arts, music, industrial technology, etc.

One day the professor of sociology got mad because some of the physical education students were causing a disruption in class and not paying attention to his teaching. He shouted, "You students of physical education do not have anything up here," pointing to his head, "but only here!" pointing to his legs. Since I was a physical education major, this offended me! I'm sure this offended others in my area of study as well. Then I spoke up and said to the professor, "That's not true! We students of physical education are very smart! We have the mind as well as the strength!"

To prove that what I said was true, I not only finished Junior College, but went on to graduate from the College for Physical Education. Even though the professor's words made me mad at the time, they helped to push me to do my best and have a successful college career!

Special Thanks To...

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 Donations to WCLC are tax deductible. For more information on making a donation, please contact Lisa Ellis at 236-5185.

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Literacy Council*

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We teach...so others may reach!

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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 empowered to become active and informed community members and citizens.