

# Literacy News

## Winnebago County Literacy Council

*We teach...so others may reach!!*

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### **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

#### **Happy Spring!**

It has been a while since the last newsletter went out to keep everyone informed about the goings on with the Literacy Council. For this I apologize, but the WCLC has been undergoing some transitions lately particularly in the area of newly-hired staff. I would like to welcome Raissa (pronounced race-ah) Reimer-Phelps as our new Student Services Coordinator. Raissa is primarily in charge of services related to student enrollment and student and tutor matching. She has a background in social work, is doing a fantastic job and has a wonderfully positive attitude which I am sure you will get to realize over time.

Also back with us as Program Educator is Kari Uselman, Ph.D. We are glad to have Kari back with us. She primarily works with training new tutors and acts as a resource to students and tutors in helping them troubleshoot any issues they may have when tackling their literacy lessons. Kari has a Ph.D. in Multicultural Multilingual Education and serves this agency well with her commitment to helping others change their lives through achieving their literacy goals no matter how big or small.

More than \$12,000 was raised on February 19<sup>th</sup> when the Winnebago County Literacy Council, a local non-profit agency that offers low-level literacy services to adults and their families throughout Winnebago County, held its' Fourth Annual Spelling Bee Fund-raiser, entitled, "How Do You Spell Chocolate?" Local businesses and area middle school teams participated by competing against each other in a fun, old-fashioned spelling bee event.

A new element to this year's event was the addition of having a middle school bee competition. Theda Care Physicians graciously provided sponsorship for the morning's middle school bee competition. Mark Harris emceed this event and Barb Herzog and Deb Zarling, both of the OASD were judges for the event. Middle school teams spelling in this year's bee included: Alps Charter School, Merrill Middle School, St. John Neumann Middle School, and Webster Stanley Middle School. This year's winner for the middle school bee was the Webster Stanley team. Congratulations to them and all the teams for their stupendous spelling! A special thanks also goes out to the teachers and students who participated in this event.

Miss Oshkosh, Jenna Poeschl, was available to sign autographs at noon as harpist Nancy Quinn provided the spellers and audience with beautiful live harp music. Anchorbank donated the wonderful decorations and fresh flowers that reminded us spring and bumblebees were just around the corner!

Aurora Health Care sponsored the afternoon's event, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Corporate Spelling Bee with Jerry Burke, from WBAY's Channel 2 News residing as emcee. Joan Simmons and Jane Van De Hey judged the event. The Appleton Post-Crescent came out on top again for the third consecutive year, although all the teams that participated competed fiercely. Besides The Post-Crescent, this year's teams consisted of: The Oshkosh Public Library, Wisconsin Public Service (in collaboration with Hoffmaster and Emmeline Cook School), The Oshkosh Northwestern, and 4-Imprint. In addition, both Aurora Health Care and Affinity Health System supported teams to participate in the event. Congratulations to The Appleton-Post-Crescent Team and thanks to all our spellers!!

This wonderful chocolate-tasting event couldn't have happened without the wonderful support of our chocolate and beverage vendors. Please frequent these businesses as they have continued to support adult literacy efforts for this event in years past. All in attendance helped themselves to free chocolate and beverages provided by The Oshkosh Shoppe, Fox Valley Cheesecake Company, Starbucks, and Lara's Tortilla Flats.

Thanks to everyone who made helped make this event such a great success!

Sincerely,

Lisa Ellis, Director

*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.*

## Upcoming Events

### **Info Sessions**

\*held twice a day at 11:00 and 5:30\*

April 21st	June 6th
May 2nd	June 16th
May 19th	July 6th

### **Adult Tutor Trainings**

May 17th, 19th, 24th and 26th 5:30-8:30  
June 13th, 15th, 20th and 22nd 9:30-12:30

### **Child Tutor Trainings**

Sunday, May 8th 12:30-4:30

Please contact Raissa know if you would like to attend any of the above!

## Tutor Enhancement Seminars !!

Beginning in April, we will be facilitating monthly tutor enhancement seminars for tutors during the following dates and times:

<b>TBA</b>	Supplementing lessons with computer software
<b>Mon. May 23</b> 10:00 – 11:30	Facilitating your client's PEP goals
<b>Tues. June 7</b> 1:00 – 2:30	Teaching clients with learning difficulties
<b>Tues. Aug. 2</b> 1:00 – 2:30 6:00-7:30	Helping your client with pronunciation

More enhancement seminars will be scheduled in the fall. Topics will address grammar, PEP facilitation, pronunciation, tips and teaching strategies, characteristics of adults with learning difficulties, functional literacy, an overview of core curriculum textbooks, supplementing lessons with computer software, legal rights of people with learning disabilities, and more. The Council is open to learning enhancement topics, so if you would like seminars on specific topics, please call Kari Uselman at (920) 236-5219, extension 4830, to explore possibilities. Thanks! And remember to put the above dates on your calendars!!!!

## Monthly Calendars Now Available On-line!!

We are slowly making our way into the high-tech world! We know how precious your time is, so we are hoping this will make it easier for our tutors to get us their monthly calendars (and save some postage, too!).

### **Here's how:**

1. Visit our website: [www.winlit.org](http://www.winlit.org)
  2. On the website, simply click "Services for Volunteers and Tutors" on the left-hand side.
  3. Then click on "Web form to fill out & send online."
  4. Fill in your information and click "Send in your calendar."
- If you prefer, you can also print out the calendar, fill it out and send it in/drop it off manually.

## Reporting Goals on Monthly Calendars:

Remember when answering the question: "Did your student successfully complete at least one personally identified literacy goal?" that **each item** on the back page of the PEP is a goal in itself, not simply the short-term and long-term goals listed on the front of the PEP. So if your student has "use phone book" checked as a goal and can now correctly find a phone number, that is a goal they have successfully completed!!

## NEW!! Goal Progress Reports

We have a new form entitled the Goal Progress Report (GRP) to monitor our students' goals. This form will be filled out by students and tutors every six months to report the goals the student has achieved, as well as setting new goals to work on.

We are hoping this makes it easier for students and tutors to see what they've already achieved and keep track of what they still want to achieve!

## Volunteer Week

April 18-23 is National Volunteer Week. We would like to take this chance to thank ALL of our outstanding volunteers! Our agency would not exist if it were not for you! Thank you for all your time, dedication & hard work—**it is truly appreciated!!**

## ROSETTA STONE COMPUTER PROGRAM

Greetings to all ESL (English as a Second Language) tutors!

My adult ESL student has enjoyed the Rosetta Stone Stand-Alone CD-ROM computer program. Why did he take to it so readily? Since he's already computer savvy, he has no fear about turning on the computer in the larger Tutor Room (the one closer to the corner listing "Rosetta Stone Stand-Alone" on the attached note) and clicking [OK] to username/password pop-up box to get to the "evergreen window." Next, he opens the CD tray on the tower to insert the Rosetta Stone Stand-Alone Level 1 or Level 2 CD depending on the student's level. (Level 1 is beginning and level 2 is just right for my student's relatively advanced status.) After inserting the appropriate disc, he left double-clicks on the Rosetta Stone Stand-Alone icon on the desk top. If this "computereeze" is driving you crazy already, please don't hesitate to just learn the motions from me without the jargon!

This program uses a multi-sensory approach with hearing, seeing, speaking and writing on the keyboard. There's a headset with adjustable settings plus the speakers. You choose lessons to either study or be tested on after you've mastered a lesson and want to achieve an actual score. The concepts in this computer program are modern, the digital photographs are fabulous, and the native speaking voices are easy-to-understand and pleasant with a variety of individual speakers.

Please try this program yourself before you try it with your student(s). If you need help getting started or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Literacy Council, and they can arrange a meeting between us. I'll be eager to share any computer resource with my fellow tutors, but I'm most familiar with the Rosetta Stone Stand-Alone program.



## Tips from our Program Educator, Kari Uselman

### Twelve Characteristics of Appropriate Instruction for Clients with Suspected Learning Difficulties and Diagnosed Learning Disabilities:

- Systematically and sequentially teach information that has been chunked into small, manageable pieces.
- Explain how the objectives of the current lesson relate to previous lessons. This will show your client the relevance of learning a particular skill or information.
- Inform your client about how the learning process works, what is expected during instruction, and how he/she can improve learning and performance. Communicate each session's organization and expectation.
- Provide detailed explanations and models about how to approach, think about, perform, and evaluate learning and performance.
- Provide a high level of tutor leadership and control to start, followed by careful monitoring of your client's performance as he/she gradually assumes control of and masters the information.
- Use your client's background knowledge and interactive questioning to build a foundation on which new information can be linked.
- Help your client to maintain a high degree of attention and response during the sessions that are scheduled as frequently as possible.
- Reshape the activities within the instructional sequence to take into consideration various cognitive barriers related to acquiring, storing and retrieving information, and demonstrating competence that might inhibit learning.
- Be patient and provide adaptations if necessary.
- Adapt instruction based on your assessment of your client's progress and his/her response to previous attempts at instruction.
- Incorporate activities before, during and after information has been mastered that will ensure application of the information and will increase the learner's success outside of our program.
- Acknowledge the time (which may be very long) necessary to ensure that your client masters the information and uses it to increase his/her success in life.

I am here to support your tutoring needs. Please call me to make an appointment if you would like to discuss your tutor/client situation, access new support materials, talk about your client's PEP and reaching those goals, and/or other issues, concerns & suggestions. I want to hear from you and learn about your successes and challenges!

### Group Conversation Class

Would you like some additional practice with your conversational skills??

We are offering a Group Conversation Class, led by Kari, which will give you an additional opportunity to develop your speaking skills.

The classes are held on Monday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:15 at the library.

If you would like to attend or have any questions, please let Kari or Raissa know.

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Students: Share Your Goals &  
Successes With Others!!

Have you recently accomplished a goal of yours that you would like to share in our newsletter?

If you are proud of a recent literacy event in your life and would like to share it with other students and tutors, please let Raissa know.

(If you prefer, we can keep your name anonymous)

Tutors: Share Your  
Knowledge & Creativity!!

Do you have a great tip or piece of advice that other tutors may find helpful?? Or are you searching for a new idea or technique to use with your student?

Let Raissa know and we can post tips, questions, etc. in the newsletter! Tutors are excellent resources for each other and we want to make it easier for you (and your student) to succeed!!

Board Members

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