

Bradford -Wyoming County Literacy Program



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ProLiteracy America

One To One News

June, 2008

Newsletter of the Bradford-Wyoming County Literacy Program

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COORDINATOR'S CORNER

You may have wondered what happened to your newsletter! Because of new projects, weather, and other matters, I wasn't able to send out a winter newsletter. You have my apologies! This has been a very busy year!

We have had two staff changes this spring. Penny Streeter, our Student/Tutor Coordinator, has resigned because of health reasons. We miss her, and we send her our best wishes. Also, Lenette Weinman, SELF Family Literacy Program Coordinator, will no longer be with us as of June 30 because of funding being eliminated for that local program. We will also miss Lenette, but we hope to see her in a new position with daycare providers.

In the fall we received a grant from Gov. Rendell's Initiative for the Adult Education Impact Program for Adult Basic and Literacy Education. This grant has been used to set up small groups in Troy and Towanda and also to begin a new curriculum with the Cargill ESL classes. This grant has been a lot of work, but we are beginning to see progress with those learners who have been involved in intensive tutoring and the new ESL curriculum. More hours of instruction per week equals more progress!

In addition to the new grant and setting up small groups, we offered a pre-clinical Certified Nurse Attendant (CNA) training this spring. The class received a lot of response. Sigrid

We held tutor training workshops in Towanda in January and in Tunkhannock in May. We have hosted four inservices so far in 2008. Mary Mingle from Central Northeast Professional Development Center facilitated "Let's Talk Tech." Kim Gavlick from Luzerne Co. Community College presented "Microsoft Excel," and she followed that up with "Intermediate Excel" in May. Dr. Richard Cooper visited Bradford Co. and explained "Vocabulary Development for Adults with Learning Problems." Mary Mingle will be returning to present "Rethinking Your Math Practice" on June 13.

We are looking forward to our annual recognition banquet which will be held on Thursday, June 19. I hope you will mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Thank you so much for all you are doing to help your student learn to read, do math, or learn English as a Second Language. You are terrific! You are making a difference in the lives of our students! I hope to see you at the banquet!

Sherry Spencer
Program Coordinator

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

Please welcome the following new tutors who completed a tutor training workshop at the Children's House in

Towanda: Blanche Darrow and Pat Thomason, Towanda; Penny Streeter, Troy, and Donna Limerick, Sayre. Trainers for the workshop were Sigrid Wilkinson and Sherry Spencer. Anne Badamo was the workshop hostess. Sarah Gottschalk and her student explained “real life” tutoring to the new trainees.

Also welcome these new tutors who completed a tutor training workshop at the Tunkhannock Public Library in Tunkhannock: Diane Meislohn, Laceyville; Agnes Fells, Shirley Michaels, Dalton; Kathy Gooch, Donna Kaskus, Susan McGovern, Pat and Steve Moyer, Tunkhannock; Penny Reid and Margaret Venn, Harvey’s Lake. Trainers for the workshop were Laurie Anson, Judy Cooper, and Sherry Spencer. Cheryl Albonese was the workshop hostess.

For information about upcoming workshops please call the Literacy Program office at 570-297-3375, 570-996-5203 or email literacy@sosbbs.com.

ANNUAL BANQUET

“Discovering the World of Reading” will be the theme of this year’s Recognition Banquet, which will be held on Thursday, June 19, at 6PM at the Towanda Elks. The guest speaker will be the Hon. Bill Goodling, former US Representative.

The Honorable Bill Goodling fulfilled his pledge to put “people before politics,” which his constituent service and legislative record made clear. “Congressman Bill” as he will always be known, continues to put people before politics. This philosophy helped him effectively serve the residents of Adams, Cumberland, and York Counties in the 19th Congressional District for twenty-six years. While in Congress, Goodling

served on the Committee on Education and Labor and chaired the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Since his retirement, he has taken a new role as Senior Advisor at B&D Consulting. Goodling also works to promote the efforts of the Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy located at Penn State University and the William F. Goodling Advanced Skills Center in York, PA. He serves as a Board Member of the following organizations: National Center for Family Literacy, Junior Achievement, Easter Seals, York Foundation, PA Coalition for Children, University of Phoenix, PreK Now, and the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association.

This year again through a partnership with Partners in Family and Community Development, the Literacy Program is able to provide complimentary dinners for volunteer tutors and students. However, persons must still make reservations so that we have an accurate count to give to the Elks Club. Please be aware if you have made a reservation and are unable to attend, you need to notify us.

Tutors and students have received invitations to the banquet with the information about reservations. If you have not received an invitation, please contact the Literacy Program office. Friends and family are welcome to attend the banquet, and they also need to make reservations and pay ahead. The cost of the dinner is \$13 per person. Deadline for reservations is June 16.

The annual banquet has become a tradition with the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program. It is the social event of the year! We hope to see you there!

AWARD WINNING PROGRAM

This spring the Towanda Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presented its 2008 “Gateway to Equity” Award to the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program. AAUW President Sue Roy presented the award to the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program at its March Program Improvement Team (PIT) meeting. Those PIT members in attendance included Sherry Spencer, Program Director, Vicki Vannan, ESL instructor, Linda Hilscher, Data Entry Clerk, Zelmy Arbona, Administrative Assistant, Lenette Weinman, Family Literacy Program Coordinator, and Phil Hungate, volunteer tutor. Diane Sadler, Bradford Co. Library Director and AAUW member, Marguerite Shaner, President, Bradford Co. Library Board of Trustees, and Linda Cheresnowsky, AAUW member, also attended.

This is the third year that the Towanda Branch has recognized a local individual or organization for work promoting equity for all women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change. AAUW branches across Pennsylvania held similar presentations throughout the month of March to inspire women, celebrate their achievements and to bring awareness to the work of those who promote the AAUW mission. The American Association of University Women has a nationwide network of over 100,000 members and 1300 branches and has been a leading advocate for women since 1881.

IN MEMORIAM

The Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program has lost some volunteer tutors since the last newsletter. The Literacy Program extends sympathy to the families of Mary Ann Crandall and Judy McCarthy of Towanda. Mary Ann had

tutored three students, but she planned to return after she retired. Judy was an active tutor and a dedicated member of the Banquet Committee. She usually designed the posters for the annual event.

The Literacy Program also extends sympathy to the families of Betty Sullivan and Vera Lundy. We hope beautiful memories will give these families and friends comfort.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

The national ProLiteracy conference will be held October 1 - 4, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and will feature Curtis Aikens, star of the Food Network and a regular cast member of ABC’s Good Morning America, as keynote speaker. Several years ago Curtis admitted on national TV that he could not read and has since become an advocate for adult literacy. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience a national conference. For more information about this conference visit www.proliteracy.org.

VOLUNTEER SALUTE

During National Volunteer Week, April 27 – May 2, the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program recognized its volunteer tutors with display ads in the Daily Review, the Morning Times, and the Wyoming Co. Press Examiner. The ads recognized the Literacy Program’s volunteer tutors for their work during 2007. The following businesses sponsored the ads: First Citizens National Bank, Gannon Associates, Citizens & Northern Bank, Ace Robbins Oil and Propane, and Procter & Gamble.

SUCCESS

Congratulations to these students who have completed skillbooks, Challenger books, or other series since the last

newsletter. (This information is compiled from tutors' monthly calendars.)

Skill Book 1

Shirley Kappen's student
Barbara Gary's student

Skill Book 2

Jonell Foster's student

Voyager 4

Susan Carmalt's student

Voyager 5

Susan Carmalt's student

Voyager 6

Susan Carmalt's student
Marcene Billingsley's student

Challenger 5

Teresa Gannon's student

Challenger 6

Mariana von Voightlander's student

Breakthrough to Math Level 1, Bk. 2 & 3

Julio Martell's student

Juan Diaz, an ESL student at Cargill, took his oath of citizenship in Scranton! Lucille Metzger's student found a recipe on the internet and made the dish. Anne Badamo's, Susan Carmalt's, and Shirley Kappen's students got library cards! Susan Carmalt's student read a book and wrote a book report. Marcene Billingsley's student bought several books and took her sons to the library! If we have omitted your student's accomplishment, please contact the

Literacy Program office.

Congratulations to these students and their tutors!

INCREASING INTENSITY

In an effort to increase intensity of instruction with its adult literacy students, the Literacy Program has offered two small groups during '07-'08. A small group on math and budgeting met in Towanda. Marie Pierce and Sherry Spencer facilitated that small group. Cathy Guffey from Penn State Cooperative Extension Service presented budgeting for several weeks.

Also a pre-GED small group has been meeting in Troy. Dolores Anthony has been the volunteer tutor for this small group. Jonell Foster also helped with this small group.

The students who participated in these small groups were able to meet with a "one to one" tutor for three hours a week and also attend the small group for three hours a week. When reality became evident, several were unable to attend for six hours. With families and work schedules, six hours was a goal, but not everyone was able to meet for that amount of time.

Vicki Vannan, ESL instructor, used a new curriculum with the ESL class at Cargill this year. Gail Weinstein's Learners' Lives as Curriculum was the focus for this year's class at Cargill. The adult learners focused not only on speaking English, but also writing in English and what it means to be part of a community.

The ESL learners are preparing for their final project which will be participating in the Laceyville Community Days with a food booth. Under Vicki's direction, the adult learners will select items to make, make these items, store the items, prepare signage, man and operate the

food booth during the hours of 1PM – 3PM. They will be part of the Laceyville Community Days and part of the Laceyville Community!

The learners in both the small groups and the ESL class have made progress as shown in their post test scores. Intensity of instruction makes a big difference! These small groups were funded by the Governor's Initiative for Impact Services for Adult Basic and Literacy Education.

THIS N' THAT

Congratulations to Roland and Tammy Cooper on their wedding, and Judy Smith and Ken Parmenter on their wedding! Tammy and Roland met at a tutor training workshop!

The Literacy Program will be participating in June in Rep. Tina Pickett's Senior Expo and the Senior Citizens' Picnic.

Be sure to submit your June calendars promptly so that we can have your hours. Our data for '07 – '08 is due to the PA Dept. of Education by July 31.

The ESL class at Cargill will be participating in the Laceyville Community Days on July 12 with a food booth from 1PM – 3PM. You are invited to come and enjoy ethnic food.

Thank you to the following for their donations in memory of Mary Ann Crandall: Associated Radiologists of the Finger Lakes Professional Corp., PHI Friends of Josh, Jean Magargee, Mary

Kay Ward, Martha and Larry Dunn, Francis and Maxine Robinson, Anita Pedro, Theresa Brennan, Doris Lewis, Elaine Engisch, Charles Dorland, Joanne Smith, the McEwen Family, Jeanne and Rodney Schoonover, Paul and Mary Ellen Gabriel, Carol George, and Client Training at Reuters America c/o Virginia Mallone. The Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program appreciates these donations.

The Literacy Program appreciates the following donations also: Jack and Joy Strobe in honor of Joyce Strobe Burgart on her birthday, George Clymer Chapter of DAR, Julie Them, First Citizens National Bank, Gannon Associates, Citizens & Northern Bank, Ace Robbins Oil and Propane, and Procter & Gamble. Thank you!

To give without any reward or notice, has a special quality of its own.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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| June 19 | Annual Recognition Banquet
“Discover the World of Reading”
Hon. Bill Goodling, Guest Speaker
Towanda Elks, 6PM Social, 6:30 Dinner |
| June 20 | Tina Pickett’s Senior Expo
Lynch Bustin Elementary School
Athens, 10AM – 2PM |
| June 26 | Area Agency on Aging
Senior Citizens’ Picnic, Alparon Park
Troy, 10AM – 2PM |
| July 12 | Laceyville Community Days
ESL Students’ Food Booth, 1PM – 3PM |

Thanks, Volunteers!

