

Bradford – Wyoming County Literacy Program



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ProLiteracy America

One To One News

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Happy New Literacy Year! I don't know where the time goes! I hope you had a very nice and relaxing summer and that your fall is going well. If you and your student took a summer break, I hope you and your student have resumed lessons.

In August we gained a new staff person. Sheryl Deibler of Waverly is our new Student/Tutor Coordinator. She is replacing Penny Streeter, who resigned in May because of health reasons. I appreciate your patience as we work through this transition. Sheryl has been busy learning her new job, and she is trying to put faces with names. Please stop by and say hello to Sheryl!

We have held two tutor training workshops this fall. We held one workshop in Towanda and only trained two tutors. A third person who was staying temporarily in Bradford Co. will be completing the training with Mid-State Literacy Council in State College. We also held a tutor training workshop at the Patterson Building in Sayre. We had twelve who registered, and we hope to finish that workshop with ten new tutors. We still need volunteer tutors in Towanda, Troy, and Canton.

Mary Mingle from Central Northeast Professional Development Center facilitated "Let's Talk Tech," which highlighted on-line learning. Other inservices will be scheduled throughout the year.

Our new webpage is up and running! You can access the webpage at www.BWCLiteracyProgram.org.

Check it out! We hope to keep it updated so that it is useful.

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! Best wishes to you and your family for happy holidays!

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: Ruth Russell, Towanda, and Sheryl Deibler, Waverly. Trainers for the workshop were Sigrid Wilkinson and Sherry Spencer. Deitlind Crain explained "real life" tutoring to the new trainees.

Also welcome these new tutors who completed a tutor training workshop at the Patterson Building in Sayre: Penny Burgoyne, Pat Cain, Theresia Franklin, Nancy Frey, and Shirley Huminik, Sayre; Laurissa Hatch, Beverly Murphy, Milan; Steve Richman, Athens; Amanda Verderese, Monroeton; and Gary Walsh, Wellsburg, NY.

Trainers for the workshop were Sherry Spencer and Sigrid Wilkinson. Phil

Hungate and Gail Wardrop observed the workshop as the first step in becoming apprentice tutor trainers. Rich Taubar explained real life tutoring to the new volunteers.

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

WELCOME, SHERYL!

Please welcome the new Student/Tutor Coordinator, Sheryl Deibler of Waverly, NY.

Sheryl was a teacher for the Athens Area School District for many years and then stayed home to raise her two sons, Gregory and Thomas. Sheryl and her husband, Jim, live in Waverly with their son, Tom (when he is home on college breaks), their dog, Shadow, and five cats. Sheryl has many hobbies including gardening and entertaining. She also has special interest in china, crystal, and pottery.

Sheryl hopes to be a valuable resource to all students and tutors as they work toward each student's goals. She hopes tutors will feel free to contact her about any needs or concerns. Sheryl can be reached at 570-297-3884 or 866-600-8270 (toll free) or by email at sdeibler@bradfordcountylibrary.org.

THE WORLD OF READING

"Discovering the World of Reading" was the theme of this year's Recognition Banquet, held at the Towanda Elks. Approximately 100 tutors, students, families, and friends attended the banquet. The guest speaker was the Hon. Bill Goodling, former US Representative of the 19th Congressional District, which includes Adams, Cumberland, and York Counties.

Congressman Goodling stated that literacy is so important. 90 million adults in the United States do not have the literacy skills needed to function in today's world. One third of the population does not have the literacy skills to function well in the 21st century. He added that 30 million couldn't function in the 20th century.

Speaking from his experience of 26 years in Congress, Congressman Goodling stated that the Johnson administration spent billions of dollars for public education. Since that time, the drop out rate has increased and the number of incarcerated adults who are illiterate has quadrupled. However, he stated that administrations cannot substitute a government program for a parent as a child's first teacher. Congressman Goodling mentioned the Bush administration's current No Child Left Behind program and added that if the parent was left behind, the child will be left behind. The deeper the poverty of the parent, the farther behind the child will be left. To get a piece of the American Dream, literacy skills are so very important and necessary.

As various administrations try different approaches and strategies, the government cannot continue to say that programs are better than nothing. Congress cannot substitute government programs for the parent being the child's first and most important teacher. If the parent is left behind, the child is also going to be left behind.

Following the program, Congressman Goodling assisted Sherry Spencer, Program Director of the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program, with presenting awards to those volunteer tutors who achieved a significant amount of tutoring hours during the past year. Howard Smith was the Master of

Ceremonies for the evening. Faith Jaynes provided musical entertainment.

Those tutors who received an award for 40 hours of volunteer tutoring include Candy Benscoter, Susan Carmalt, Sandy Chamberlain, Linda Clark, Randy Ehrenzeller, Jonell Foster, Sarah Gottschalk, Lynn Hauser, Shirley Kappen, Judy Lorincz, Julio Martell, Diane Milnes, Barbara Pulver, Bernadette Schein, Virginia Shapiro, and Ed Zinser.

Those who received an award for 100 hours of volunteer tutoring include Joyce Anderson, Jeannie Jayne, and Gail Wardrop.

Kris Eller, Kim Kal-Downs, and Richard Taubar received awards for reaching 200 hours of volunteer tutoring.

Philip Hungate was recognized for reaching 300 hours of volunteer tutoring.

Yvonne Crimbring, Barbara Gary, Philip Hungate, Barbara James, Julia Landon, and Marlene von Voightlander received awards for 400 hours of volunteer tutoring. Barbara Gary was recognized for 500 hours of volunteer tutoring. Claire Borits was recognized for 600 and 700 hours of volunteer tutoring. Marjorie Pratt was presented with an award for 900 hours of volunteer tutoring. Laurie Anson received an award for reaching 1000 hours of volunteer tutoring. For tutoring 1900 hours of volunteer tutoring Marie Pierce received recognition, and Carolyn Mack was recognized for 2100 hours of volunteer tutoring.

Finally, Judy Smith received an award for her outstanding accomplishment of 2600 hours of volunteer tutoring.

Sponsors for the banquet included Marlene's Florist and Gifts, Partners in

Family and Community Development, Pickering Winery, Roloson Brothers Maple Syrup, and Wheeler's Greenhouse.

The annual recognition banquet has become a tradition with the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program. Plans will soon begin for the 2009 Banquet. If you would like to be a member of the committee, please contact the Literacy Program office. We need you!

PROLITERACY CONFERENCE

The national ProLiteracy conference was held October 1 - 4, in Little Rock, Arkansas and featured over 100 seminars. Sherry Spencer attended the conference and represented the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program. Curtis Aikens, star of the Food Network and a regular cast member of ABC's Good Morning America, was the keynote speaker at the Student Luncheon. Another speaker was Hubert Brodell, a former mayor and GED graduate at the age of 78. For further information about the conference visit www.proliteracy.org.

The Pennsylvania Association of Adult and Continuing Education (PAACE) Midwinter conference will be held February 11 – 13, 2009, in Hershey. For further information contact the Literacy Program office.

IN MEMORIAM

The Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program extends sympathy to Becky Kerstetter on the loss of her husband, Ken. The Literacy Program also has lost two former volunteer tutors since the last newsletter. The Literacy Program extends sympathy to the families of Babe Tymoski and Eileen Montgomery. Both women volunteered as literacy tutors a few years ago.

We hope beautiful memories will give these families and friends comfort.

LITERACY WEEK

Both Bradford and Wyoming Co. Commissioners proclaimed the week of September 7 – 13 to be International Literacy Week in their respective counties. Sherry Spencer, Program Director, and Vicki Vannan, ESL Instructor, attended the meeting with the Wyoming Co. Commissioners. Sherry, Vicki, Diane Sadler, Bradford Co. Library Director, and Juan Diaz, ESL student, attended the meeting with the Bradford Co. Commissioners. Juan, who works at Cargill in Wyalusing, became a United States citizen this spring. Another ESL student and Cargill employee, Manuel Larrynaga also received his US citizenship in July, but Manuel was unable to attend the meeting with the Wyoming Co. Commissioners. The accomplishments of these two learners were highlighted at both meetings. Congratulations, Juan and Manuel!

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.)

Challenger 1

Ed Zinser's student

Challenger 3

Kris Eller's student

Judy Lorincz's student

Challenger 6

Mary Ann Vallilee's student

Voyager 1 and 2

Peggy Trentacosta's student

Remembering Bk. 2

Ed Zinser's student

Programmed Reading Bk. 1

Barbara Gary's student

Talk of the Block

Barbara Gary's student

Patterns in Spelling Bk. 1

Laurie Anson's student

Side by Side Bk. 3

Claire Borits' student

Claire Borits', Kris Eller's, and Susan Carmalt's students got library cards! Diane Milnes' student passed her final exams! Margaret Zinser's student got a job! Agnes Fells' student completed his first novel! Yvonne Crimbring's student completed Stolen Secrets! If we have omitted your student's accomplishment, please contact the Literacy Program office. Congratulations to these students and their tutors!

INCREASING INTENSITY

To increase intensity of instruction with its adult literacy students, the Literacy Program is again offering small group instruction for '08-'09. A math small group is planned for Towanda. Also a pre-GED small group has resumed meeting in Troy. Dolores Anthony is the volunteer tutor for this small group. Two more small groups are planned for Sayre and Tunkhannock.

The students who participated in these small groups are 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. If learners can commit to the six hours/week, they are able to see great gains! With families and work schedules, six hours/week is a

challenging goal, but more hours equal more progress!

Vicki Vannan, ESL instructor, used a new curriculum with the ESL class at Cargill last year and will continue with it this year. Gail Weinstein's Learners' Lives as Curriculum will again be the focus for this year's class at Cargill.

In July, the ESL learners participated in the Laceyville Community Days with an ethnic food booth. Under Vicki's direction, the adult learners selected items to make, made these items, stored the items, prepared signage, and operated the food booth. Although the food booth was supposed to close at 3PM, the booth stayed open until 6PM. All the food was sold, and the food received rave reviews! These learners are now 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!

THIS N' THAT

Dawn Rafter from CNEPDC will present "Contextualized Instruction – Moving from Acquisition to Application and Transfer" on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 5:30PM – 8:30PM at the Tunkhannock Area School District's Administrative Center. For further information contact the Literacy Program office at 570-297-3375 or 570-996-5203.

Several tutors and students are using the weekly newspaper from New Readers Press, "News for You." If you would like to use "News for You" in your

lessons, contact the Literacy Program office. "News for You" is also now available on line at www.newsforyouonline.com.

The Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program has a new email address, literacy@bradfordcountylibrary.org. This new email address is already in use. Staff members also have this new address with their first initial and last name: Sherry Spencer: sspencer@bradfordcountylibrary.org; Zelmy Arbona: zarbona@bradfordcountylibrary.org; Sheryl Deibler: sdeibler@bradfordcountylibrary.org; and Linda Hilscher: lhilscher@bradfordcountylibrary.org. Vicki Vannan can be reached at vvannan@frontiernet.net.

After the first of the year, the Literacy Program will discontinue its previous email addresses of literacy@sosbbs.com and bwelit@epix.net.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Leo Buscaglia

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Bradford Co. Library
 RR 3, Box 320
 Troy, PA 16947

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Nov. 11 | Veterans' Day Holiday
Bradford Co. Library closed |
| Nov. 18 | “Contextualized Instruction:
Moving from Acquisition to Application
and Transfer” with Dawn Rafter
5:30PM – 8:30PM, Tunkhannock Area
School District's Admin. Center, Tunkhannock |
| Dec. 3 | Wyoming Co. Tutor Get together
6PM – 7PM, Tunkhannock Public Library |
| Dec. 9 | Impact Tutor Get together
11 AM, Allen F. Pierce Library, Troy |

Thanks, Volunteers