

Literacy Links

a newsletter for volunteer tutors

March 2001

editor, Peggy L. Murphy, Portland Literacy Board Member

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Reed College

Clark College Student Learning Center Tutor
Training, March 11 & 12

Pronunciation Techniques for ESL Teachers
(tutors are welcome)
April 30, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
PCC Cascade Campus

See you at the Tutor Conference! by Mindy Mentor



Ciao, Tutors

Just a quick note to say I'm taking a short break in March to attend the Portland Literacy Council Annual Tutor Conference.

In case you haven't registered yet, it's on Saturday, March 19, at Reed College in Portland. I'm told there's still space. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., lunch is served, and the last seminars finish around 3 p.m. Parking is free.

I'll resume my column in April -- I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

¡Hasta Luego! -- Mindy Mentor

Look Outside Your Toolbox

by Peggy L. Murphy

First-time presenter at the 2011 Tutor Conference, Jennifer Snyder has a toolbox complete with small white boards, fly swatters, and random timers. Tutors who attend her workshop (Session F, Engage Students with Hands-on Practice Activities) will learn some new and interesting techniques that will help them gauge individual progress among students in groups. Jennifer Snyder has taught ESOL at PCC Sylvania for 7-1/2 years. She currently teaches ESOL levels 4-5 and computers level 1-3.

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Look Outside Your Toolbox Continued from page 1

Jennifer will demonstrate how these seemingly ordinary items benefit kinesthetic learners, create iterative learning opportunities, and allow observation of progress within a group of students. Kinesthetic learners, those naturally inclined to use their motor skills will benefit from these novel techniques, which have a game-like, motivating quality.

White boards often are used for learning new languages. They allow skills practice and lend themselves well to vocabulary games and spelling practice. Instructors can help pace learning and observe writing and bigger motor skills. White boards also provide instant feedback and give students repeat opportunities for success. They even encourage faster learners to help other students without anyone losing face.

Now, if you want to know about the fly swatters and random timers, you'll have to attend Session F at the March 19 Tutor Conference.

Recycle Your Books in the Big Blue Bin

by Peggy L. Murphy

Do you have a stack of books, large or small, that you'd like to see go to a worthy cause? If so, look for a big blue book bin near you.



Reading Tree book donation bin

Reading Tree, a nonprofit that supports children's literacy, is placing book donation bins in our area. Reading Tree sells some of the books to support distribution efforts, and has delivered 3.4 million books to schools, libraries, and children - nationally and internationally. One of their missions is to reduce the number of books that might go to landfills.

On February 24, the Reading Tree website listed several donation boxes in the Portland area, including Portland and its suburbs and Vancouver. Donations can include usable books for any age level.

The PLC board supports Reading Tree's efforts, and encourages our readers to consider this nonprofit when you are making room on your bookshelves.

Editor's note - the Reading Tree website notes that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service has classified Reading Tree as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. See their website for more information.

Introduce Your Congressman to Adult Literacy

This message is a public service from the Portland Literacy Council Board

The closing of Oregon Literacy in 2008 interrupted the connection of our literacy community to our US Senators and Congressmen. Each of you has power to help fill this void by writing, e-mailing, or calling your elected official.

The House of Representatives is addressing adult literacy through the House Adult Literacy Caucus. This caucus “aims to bring attention to the adult literacy issue and promote local, national, and global adult literacy initiatives. The caucus calls attention to the connections between adult literacy and national priorities like economics and health” (National Coalition for Literacy).

Is your Congressman a member of the Adult Literacy Caucus? Does your Representative or Senator know the state of literacy in the US? Do you think it’s time to bring it to his attention?

The National Coalition for Literacy, on its website, is advocating the Congressional Visit Campaign. Browse the website and you’ll have a good blueprint for inviting Congressmen to visit a literacy program or joining the House Adult Literacy Caucus. You can even access Congressional calendars to find the dates for House Constituent Work Weeks and Senate State Work Periods.

Consider these paraphrased statistics from the National Coalition for Literacy.

Adult Literacy Index

93 Million	US adults without literacy skills to reach their full potential
30 Million	Adults whose literacy levels significantly impede their ability to function at work, at home, and in their communities
11 Million	Adults who cannot communicate in English
3 Million	Non-English speaking adults who can access services in the U.S
535	Senators and Representatives in Congress
17	Members of House Adult Literacy Caucus*
12	States represented in the Caucus*
0	Caucus members from Oregon or Washington*

*Information from National Coalition for Literacy, February 25, 2011.

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Introduce Your Congressman to Adult Literacy

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PLC encourages you to contact your Congressional representative and let him know that you, his constituent, care about adult literacy. Introduce him to our Adult Literacy Index and start a conversation.

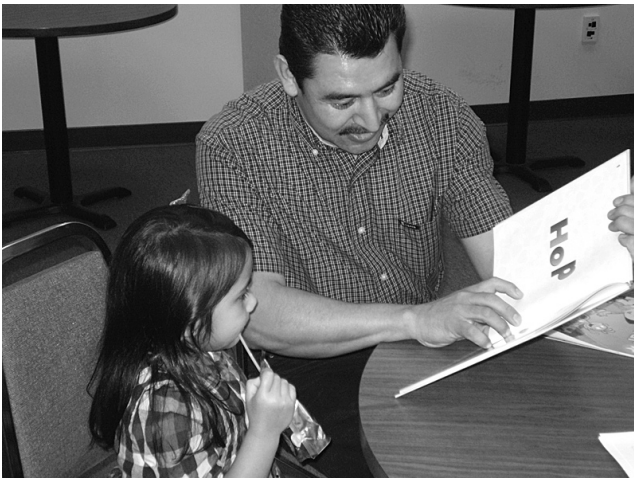
Editor's Note - The American FactFinder (U.S. Census Bureau) estimates that 17.2 percent of adult Oregonians 18-24 years (60,000) and 15.5 percent of adult Oregonians 25 years and older (295,000) lack high school diplomas. The poverty rate for Oregonians 25 years and older (563,000) who lack diplomas is estimated at 24.2 percent. (Data Set: 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

Spotlight on the Clark County Student Learning Center

by Peggy L. Murphy

The Clark College Student Learning Center (SLC) has a simple formula for the success of its adult education tutoring program: a hard-working, dedicated program manager who loves her work, a cadre of enthusiastic volunteers, and faculty support. The center is supported by donations and a small budget from Clark College.

As you enter Clark's SLC, you'll see a big community table, cubicles, computers, and engaged tutors and students. One look around tells you it's a comfortable, safe place for adult learning. Students have access to learning software including Ultimate, Speed Reading, Lexia Reading, Live Action English, basic math and Math in Everyday Life.



Family Night at Clark College
Student Learning Center

Donations and a capacity-building grant have enabled Clark's SLC to enlarge its library from 2,000 to more than 5,000 books. Every book is bar-coded and catalogued.

Regular family literacy nights help support the parents' role as the first teacher. Children's books in the SLC library help focus on family literacy, while tutors help parents learn the skills they need to teach their children to read and write.

The path of Suzanne Smith, program manager for the Student Learning Center, began in 2001 as a Clark College work-study student majoring in business. She volunteered to present tutor training for the Adult Literacy Center in 2002-03. A graduate of Washington State University, she has experience as a job skills training program coordinator at Columbia College, and as a student program coordinator for a national nonprofit.

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Spotlight on the Clark County Student Learning Center

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The Clark SLC is a village and Suzanne is generous in her praise of the devoted volunteers and faculty who contribute to its success. Last year volunteers collectively donated over 6,300 hours in time spent tutoring, mentoring, and supporting the program. Clark's Student Learning Center has approximately 65 tutors actively working with over 300 students one-on-one, in small groups and in the classroom. Four peer mentors assist students in the Basic Education Program. ABE and ESL faculty and other staff donate countless hours to help develop the tutor training program and the peer mentor program.

If you would like to join the village at Clark's Student Learning Center, see their website or call 360-992-2750.

Training and Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Volunteer Tutor at the Clark College Student Learning Center!

The Clark College Student Learning Center provides many programs and services that assist students as they attend basic English and math classes. In as little as 2-3 hours per week you can play a vital part in helping a student along the road to success. Opportunities are available in one-on-one pairs and in classroom settings. Applicants must be available to attend new tutor orientation and training.

New Tutor & Orientation Dates and location:

March 11, 6-9PM	Clark College Town Plaza Center
March 12, 9AM - 1PM	5411 E Mill Plain Blvd. Room 105
	Vancouver, WA 98661

Please contact the Clark College Student Learning Center, 360-992-2750, for more information.

Literacy Links reported the date of this workshop as March 19; it has been rescheduled as above.

Pronunciation Techniques for ESL Teachers

ORTESOL (Oregon Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) is presenting a one-day workshop led by Susan Ginley, a speech language pathologist from PSU. Ms. Ginley will share speech-pathologist techniques to target specific pronunciation issues such as consonants, vowels, and prosody. Attendees will learn about evaluation protocols and processes to assess the pronunciation of English-language learners, how to develop a plan to target specific pronunciation issues, and techniques appropriate to specific situations.

The workshop is suitable for tutors, although membership in ORTESOL is required to attend. The membership fee for tutors is \$15; membership is available via their website.

Saturday, April 30, 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall 122
Free to ORTESOL members

Promoting literacy in our community.

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Training and Volunteer Opportunities

2011 Volunteer Literacy Tutor Conference

Literacy: The Ticket to Success hosted by Portland Literacy

Preregistration is required. See the PLC website.

Saturday, March 19, 8:30 am to 3:00 p.m.

Vollum Center, Reed College

3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland,

Additional Tutoring Opportunities

[Portland Literacy Council Tutor page](#)

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