

Literacy Links

Fall
2010

a newsletter for volunteer tutors

editor, Kris Magaurn, PCC Tutor Coordinator, Tigard Senior Center

Going Green

by Sharon Callen, Portland Literacy Council Board Member

The Portland Literacy Council is going green!

We will now distribute the Literacy Links newsletter by email beginning in October. For every ton of paper that is not used for printing, there is a savings of 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil and enough electricity to power the average house for six months. We are not only committed to sustaining minds, but also the environment. This new format will help widen our readership to help educate and inform those who want to develop and support literacy programs in the metropolitan Portland, Oregon area.



Register

To receive the newsletter, please log on to www.portlandliteracy.org, click on the tab titled "Registration for Newsletter" and follow the instructions. If you do not have internet access, you may sign up for a paper newsletter by calling Audrey of the Portland Literacy Council at 503-233-4956. Current and archived newsletters are also available to view on our website.

The mission of the Portland Literacy Council is to assist, develop, and facilitate literacy programs and provide the learning tools that are necessary to ensure that a basic education is available to everyone. Contributions from readers on literacy tutor tips, learning opportunities, student stories, lesson plans, and helpful web sites are always welcomed and encouraged for publication. Contact Kris Magaurn at Kris@portlandliteracy.org with any questions, suggestions, or article submissions.

This is the last paper newsletter. Don't forget to register to receive "Literacy Links" via email. Go to www.portlandliteracy.org to register.

Literacy Links

Recommendations from Multnomah County Library

By Melissa Medanski, Multnomah County Library Adult Literacy Coordinator



From Pilots to Programs

There is something hopeful about a pilot program. It implies that you will learn from what you do while navigating the territory! Our pilot “Learning Lab: Guide to GED Resources” spent last year getting its wings and has made a safe landing as a “program.” We have 6 sessions planned for the school year. We now offer the material in 4 meetings instead of 6. Also, we have created a way to welcome drop-in students. Registered participants are guaranteed a seat/computer. If the class is not full, people can drop in on a first-come, first-served basis. The first fall session at Central Library begins Wednesday evening, September 15th. Call Melissa Madenski at 503.988.6318 with questions or to register.

CELEBRATE WITH US

On September 8, International Literacy Day, the world pauses to think about the power of literacy. Here at Multnomah County Library, we are honoring the wonderful work our county non-profits do on behalf of citizenship preparation, GED study, reading instruction and English language learning. From 1:00 - 4:00 pm, come and meet the people who advocate for, and provide these services every day. Then join us from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for finger foods and a presentation by Colored Pencils Art Collective. We’d love to have you there.

Community GED Event to Provide Low-Cost Testing to Low-Income Adults—With Help From PLC!

By Carole Scholle, Londer Learning Center

Many adult students face a financial burden to take GED tests. Testing can cost up to \$135 at community colleges. And many adults in our community are unaware of free tutoring, library, and online resources available. This October, as part of a series of International Literacy Day events, Londer Learning Center and Portland Literacy Council are teaming up to change this situation.

Multnomah County’s Londer Learning Center, an adult literacy program and official GED testing site, usually only has funding to provide GED testing and educational services to corrections clients, but, with support from Portland Literacy Council, the center will be able to offer a half day session of GED preparation and one full day of low-cost GED testing to any adults in our community. New testers need only pay a mandatory \$35 state fee and may take 3 tests in a day. Test fees will be waived. Adults who have taken GED tests in the last 3 years may test for free.

Students may also be able to check past test records, if they have previously tested in Oregon, and will obtain an access code that will allow them to obtain GED transcripts at no cost.

Our aim is to provide these services to high-need, low-income adults, so we plan to do outreach with small tutoring sites, the health department, low-income housing units in the downtown area, as well as community organizations.

The Community GED Event schedule is as follows:

Saturday, Oct 9, 9am to 1pm Test Prep and Pre-Registration Day

Open to all students who wish to take advantage of low-cost testing. Tutors will be on-hand to give “practice GED tests” so students can immediately see if they are ready to test. If ready, students will fill out registration paperwork. Students will also find information on low-cost resources, tutoring options, library resources and more. *Volunteers are needed for this event—thanks! We are hoping to serve 25 adults.

Saturday, Oct 16, 9am to 4pm - GED testing

Open only to those who pre-registered on Oct 9. Students will be able to take 3 tests on this day, any subject.

As with any community event, volunteers are needed. We are looking for help during the Saturday, Oct 9, Test Prep event. This could include aiding students with paperwork, telling students about resources, grading practice GED tests and/or discussing tutoring needs with students. If you are a tutor and would like to volunteer for this event, please contact: Carole Scholl, Manager, Londer Learning Center, 503-988-6828 or email at: carole.a.scholl@co.multnomah.or.us

Archie's Triumph

by Archie Hendricks, Student, PCC SE Center

Hi! My name is Archie Hendricks and this is my story.

When I was little, I spent my life in the hospital, on my deathbed, hooked up to IV's and breathing tubes. Obviously, I was not in school, being hooked up. During the time I was home, between hospital stays, my dad taught me the alphabet and numbers. I knew a little bit about sounding vowels and consonants. He taught me how to count to one hundred. When I grew stronger and was able to attend school, I still didn't get a chance to learn what I needed because then my mom and I moved to Mexico. Not only did she have a boyfriend, Juan, who wanted to move back to Mexico, but she thought the warmer air would relieve my asthma, making breathing easier for me. I had no choice but to move with my mom. She had control over my life. When I was in school in Mexico, I felt frustrated. It was like sitting in front of a wall that I couldn't go through because I didn't speak their language, Spanish. This occurred between the ages of 7 and 13. My dad wanted me to be in school to learn. He wanted a tutor for me but he had no control over the situation. My mom could have cared less and that always frustrated me because I always wanted to learn.

When my mom and Juan broke up, I moved back to Portland to be with my dad. I was about 13 when this happened. I began attending school on a regular basis. I was put in special ed and told that I'd never be able to read or write. My feeling is that the school never really saw what was inside of me. I was furious and sad at the same time because I really wanted to learn. My speaking

vocabulary has always been very good because I study people and try to learn from listening. Someone told me about Portland Community College and the Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program and that's how I met the coordinator, Kathleen Holloway. She is the key to the box of precious stones---which are the tutors. My first tutor was Percy Whiting. He taught me how to sound vowels and to read. He is one of my precious stones. Another precious stone, Barbara Kashuba, is teaching me how to put my words and thought on paper. My life is becoming better and happier. My life is fuller because I can read and write and that I could never do before. I can express my thoughts and feelings on paper. I feel terrific!

When I knew that I was going to have a daughter, I knew that I wanted to be able to read to her. She is six now and I am reading to her. She looks forward to our reading time, saying, "Daddy, can you read to me?" I read to her before she goes to sleep. This makes me happy that I can read to her and make her happy.

For all you people out there, it takes one step at a time. The first step is always the hardest, but it gets easier each step you take. I believe you can do it! I did!!!



Archie Hendricks studies with his tutor Barbara Kashuba.

Register

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Announcements

Promoting literacy in our community.

Portland Literacy Council
P.O. Box 2872
Portland, OR 97208-2872

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Save the Date

Mark your calendar for the following events.

- September 8: International Literacy Day Celebration, Multnomah County Library.
- October 9 and 16: GED Testing, Londer Learning Center
- October 16: Scrabble Fundraiser, Gotham Tavern.
- March 19, 2011 Tutor Conference

Check the portlandliteracy.org website for more information.

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