



Hivemind

SPRINGING AHEAD

The Rowan County Literacy Council is springing ahead on several fronts. Our **15th Annual Scrabble Scramble** is on the horizon and we look forward to another lively event at Trinity Oaks on May 4, 2018. Mark your calendar! Teams of lexophiles will compete to see who can construct the highest-scoring board. *Zzyzyva*, anyone? A **Tutor Appreciation Event** is planned for May 9 at 2pm in the Hurley Room of Rowan Public Library headquarters. Our tutors are our greatest asset and we can't wait to recognize and honor their ongoing contributions. We are also gearing up to start our second year of the Summer Youth program in conjunction with the Salisbury Housing Authority and are actively seeking tutors to volunteer for the 10-week program. Read more about this important opportunity on page 5.

MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: One of Ray Costello's students, two of Larry Summey's students, one of Denise Jacobs' students, Laurel Harry's student, one of Don Doering's students, Doug McKenzie's student, one of Helen Peacock's students

Increased involvement in child's education: One of Helen Peacock's students

Passed a portion of the GED: Laurel Harry's student

Read a book for pleasure: Gary Rash's student, two of Helen Peacock's students, one of Thomas Long's students

Read job-related materials: two of Helen Peacock's students

Used technology to improve skills: Carolyn Brown's student

Got a new job or promotion: One of Don Doering's students, one of Helen Peacock's students

Obtained a library card: One of Chris Kepley's students



Student James Pittman completed a workbook level and is using his new skills to read work-related materials.



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OLD AND NEW STUDENTS SHOW PERSISTENCE

Our Persistence Program continues to reward students for good attendance. Every month, students who have attended six or more hours of class time are entered into a drawing for a prize. In January, despite several closures for holidays and bad weather, 13 students met the threshold. In February, 21 students were eligible! Consistent attendance is essential to student progress. A grant from a generous community donor has enabled us to pilot this program to incentivize attendance.

In January, one of our longest attending students, John

White, was the lucky winner of the drawing. John has been a student since 2012, working steadily with tutor Willi Beilfuss.



John White shown with tutor Willi Beilfuss (above) and Deborah Blackwell with her tutor Ray Costello (below).



In February, one of our newest students, Deborah Blackwell, won the drawing. She has just started working with tutor Ray Costello and is an enthusiastic learner.

From our oldest to newest students, persistence is the common factor in success. Please work with your students to reschedule any missed lessons and try to hit the minimum 6-hour threshold to be entered in the drawing. Congratulations to John and Deborah!

Energy and persistence conquer all things.

~Benjamin Franklin

LIBRARY HOURS

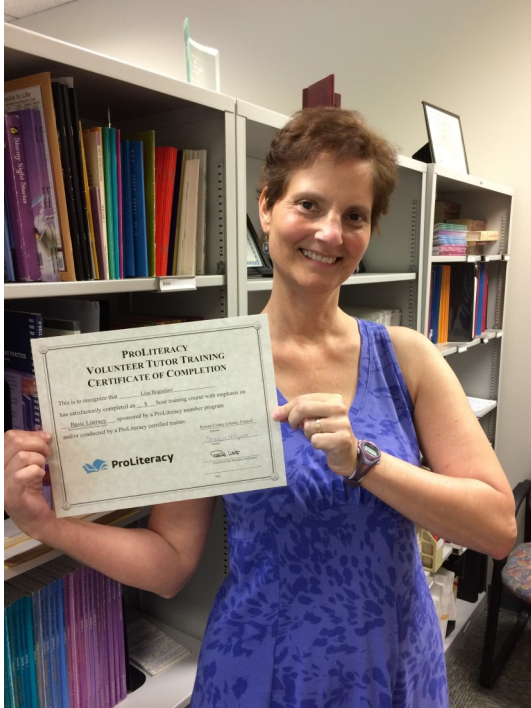
| Location | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|
| HQ | 9:00 am - 9:00 pm | 9:00 am - 9:00 pm | 9:00 am - 9:00 pm | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Closed |
| East | 9:00 am - 8:00 pm | 9:00 am - 8:00 pm | 9:00 am - 8:00 pm | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm | Closed |
| South | 9:00 am - 9:00 pm | 9:00 am - 9:00 pm | 9:00 am - 9:00 pm | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Closed |

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 26 & 28 | Holiday—Library Closed (Memorial Day) |
| July 4 | Holiday—Library Closed (Independence Day) |
| September 1 & 3 | Holiday—Library Closed (Labor Day) |

IN MEMORIAM

Tutor Lisa Boguslaw passed away after a battle with cancer on March 27, 2018. Lisa selflessly decided to join the Literacy Council last spring despite the serious nature of her illness. During her time as a volunteer she worked with an Adult Basic Education student, as well as ESL students from Egypt and China.



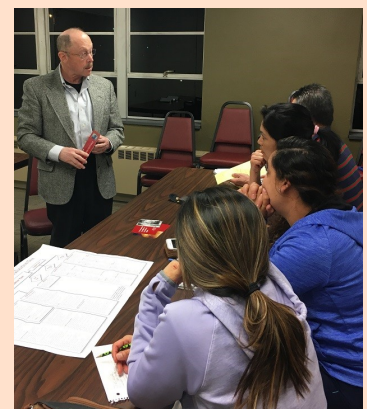
Lisa seldom mentioned her health challenges and continued to tutor regularly through January of this year, logging many hours and generously giving the last full measure of her time and expertise. She was a smart, kind, compassionate, cheerful person who will be missed greatly by all who knew her.

Lisa Boguslaw shows off her ProLiteracy Certification in May 2017 (above) and relaxes with fellow tutors during the summer social at Mean Mug Coffee Company in July 2017 (below).



FOCUS ON CITIZENSHIP

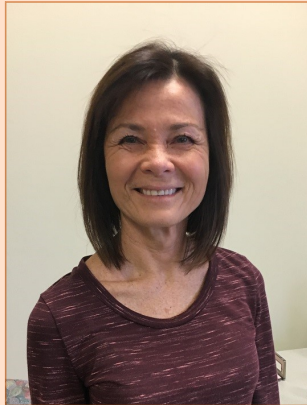
The Literacy Council's evening Citizenship class began in February and ran for 10 weeks, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday. The students were preparing to take the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) interview and exam by studying U.S. history, civics, and working on pronunciation and interview skills. The class, led by Joel Scott and Liesa Montag-Siegel, also helped students prepare for the reading and writing components of the exam. A special thank you to Pastor Rhodes Woolly and St. John's Lutheran Church for generously providing a meeting space for the class.



Tutor Joel Scott works with the class using civics and history flashcards.

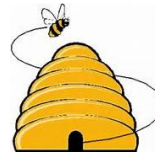
WELCOME TO THE HIVE!

Freshly minted tutors Winnie Mikkelson, Liese Sadler, and Carolyn Brown have all hit the ground running. All three are working with ESL students and bringing great energy and enthusiasm to the task. Welcome!



New tutors (top to bottom) Winnie Mikkelson, Liese Sadler, and Carolyn Brown.

The Buzz



TUTOR INFO ZONE: CHOICE & MOTIVATION

“Providing people with choice about what activities to do and how to do them can increase intrinsic motivation, provided that the number of options offered is not overwhelming. Experiencing higher levels of perceived self-control predicts numerous positive outcomes, among them engagement in school and academic achievement. The amount of autonomy a learner desires, however, appears to depend on how competent and self-efficacious he or she feels. If the task is new or especially challenging, an individual may appreciate having little autonomy.”

Building a sense of learner autonomy and control does not mean abandoning adults to learn on their own; there are a number of ways that instructors can give their students autonomy

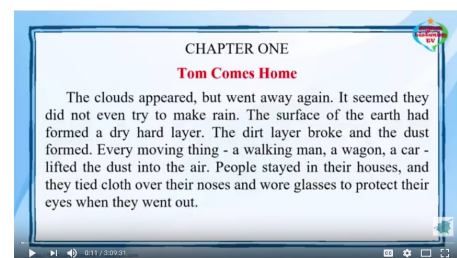
without sacrificing best practices such as providing specific feedback, offering explicit and clear modeling of strategies, and monitoring progress, all of which develop proficiencies and so support greater autonomy.

The choices allowed can be quite small and still have important effects on motivation. For example, instructors can encourage adult learners to choose whether they want to work on a reading passage individually or in small groups, choose the order of activities during a class session, or choose the genre of the next text they will read.”

—Excerpted from [Improving Adult Literacy Instruction: Supporting Learning and Motivation](#) published by the National Research Council of the National Academies.

NEW MATERIALS

Tandem reading is a helpful exercise for new readers. [Youtube.com](#) has a great collection of classic books and short stories that are read aloud and have accompanying text so your students can follow along. Authors such as Steinbeck, Austen, Dickens, Poe, Kerouac, and countless others are available. Videos range from under 20 minutes to over 3 hours. A great introduction to classic literature! On youtube.com, search for “[Learn English through Story](#)” or “[Learn English through Story with Subtitles](#)” and browse the titles available. Check out a laptop and try it for your next class.



Your Medicine: Be Smart. Be Safe. Many new readers struggle to understand their doctors’ orders and take to take medications as prescribed. A new health pamphlet from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is available in the office. This pamphlet discusses prescription safety, goes over questions to ask your physician, and has an organizer for keeping track of medications. Pick one up to share with your student!

YOUTH LITERACY UPDATE

During the course of the school year, literacy council tutors have been working with select 3rd grade students at **Hurley Elementary School** in order to increase the students' reading fluency. The tutors each have 1-3 students, whom they meet once or twice a week, giving students the extra boost they need to succeed. The students have enjoyed working with their tutors and sometimes even want to (gasp) work through recess! Creativity is key and our tutors have come up with fun activities to keep the students engaged: word puzzles, sight word games, duet reading, and in one case, co-authoring a book about monkeys. As the end of the school year approaches, let's give a hand to Kathy Vestal, Ed Tezlaf, Char Molrine, Irene Stewart, KC Scott, Emily Walls, and Jennifer Doering for volunteering.

Of course when the school year winds down, it means summer is about to ramp up, and for RCLC, that means the Summer Reading Program with the

Salisbury Housing Authority. Last year, we led literacy enrichment programs at two local housing authority communities, Brookview and East Lafayette. At each location, a tutor and a high-school volunteer led fun-filled programs for the children who attended in the 10-week long Summer Meals program. This year, we'd like to expand to serve two additional locations. Contact the office if you are interested!



Kids love literacy: Paper crowns were one of several fun craft projects tutors incorporated into lessons during the Summer Reading Program.

THE EYES HAVE IT: VISION ASSISTANCE

New readers have many challenges to overcome, but poor vision should not be one of them. If you suspect that your student is having trouble seeing clearly and cannot afford to see an eye doctor, our local Lions Clubs can help. The Lions Club gives vouchers to low-income community members that can be used for optometry examinations and eyeglasses. Please let the office know if your student needs a referral for eyeglasses.



In addition to providing vision assistance, the Lions Club also collects used glasses which are sent to underprivileged people overseas. The frames and lenses are cleaned and adjusted as necessary and provided at no charge to people who otherwise would not be able to afford the high cost of frames and lenses. Rockwell Lions Club officer and RCLC tutor Ray Costello has facilitated the collection of glasses from our organization. So far, over 30 pair of glasses have been donated! If you have prescription glasses that you are no longer using, please drop them off in the collection box in the office.

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2017 Board of Directors:

Melody Moxley-President

Helen Peacock-Vice-President

Vance Meek-Treasurer

Carolyn Myers-Secretary

Don Doering

Nan Lund

Scott Maddox

Gary Rash

Wen Ye

Kelly Freeze-RCCC Representative

Staff:

KC Scott-Executive Director

Laurel Harry-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

7

7 countries significantly outperformed the United States on the PIACC Literacy Scale for adults 16-65 including: Japan, Finland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, and Belgium.

—Source National Center for Education Statistics

61

Percentage of low-income families that have no books at all in their homes for their children. Having age-appropriate books in the home is a strong predictor of future academic success.

—Source: *IEA Reading Literacy Study. (1996)*

8

Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list. We currently have eight ESL students awaiting matches. Can you take on a new student, or do you know someone who would make a great tutor? Let's bring this number down today!

Rowan County Literacy Council

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Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5