



Hivemind

PUMPKIN SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE

The leaves are falling, the temperatures are dropping, and we are once again asking, “Where did the year go?” This fall, Trinity Oaks hosted our 20th Annual Scrabble Scramble fundraiser (see pg. 2-3). Youth tutoring has begun for the 2023-2024 school year, and we are excited to see what this year has in store (pg. 4). As the days grow colder, it’s important to stay up to date on any weather-related closings. To get alerts about library closings, download and follow us on the Spaces app available on Google Play and the Apple App Store (pg. 5).

If you are a tutor looking for lesson inspiration, the popular Teacher Training Plus webinars from ProLiteracy and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation have returned (pg. 5). Additionally, we will be hosting a Cookies and Collaboration in-service training for all current tutors on December 8th (pg. 4).

MILESTONES

Passed a portion of the GED: One of Jenny Hubbard’s students.

Improved employment: One of Don Doering’s students, Lina Drinkard’s student, one of Jennifer Welch’s students, one of Jenny Hubbard’s students

Completed a Workbook: Debbie Scott’s student, two of Laurel Harry’s students, one of Don Doering’s students, and one of Ruby Sturcey’s students.

Obtained Driver’s License/Permit: Tony D’Mello’s student, one of Jean Wurster’s students, Paige Haynes-Harry’s student, one of Laurel Harry’s students.

Obtained Library Card: Tony D’Mello’s student, one of Jean Wurster’s students, three of Laurel Harry’s students.



Became a U.S. Citizen: Rita Sims’ student, Yudersis Lantigua, passed her citizenship test and took her oath of citizenship this September. Congratulations Yudersis!



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SCRABBLE TEAMS MATCH WITS

The reigning Scrabble champs from Trinity Oaks had an eight-year winning streak to defend during Rowan County Literacy Council’s recent fundraiser, Scrabble Scramble. The event, now in its 20th year, was held Sept. 28 at Trinity Oaks Senior Living. Nine teams competed to build the highest-scoring Scrabble boards during three rounds of fast-paced word play. No team has a more dominant record than the experienced team from Trinity Oaks.

By the end of the night, after fending off some serious challenges, they notched a ninth consecutive victory.

The Rowan Public Library, Wallace & Graham, P.A., South Main Book Company, and Lutheran Services’ New Americans Program were among the other teams competing.

Trinity Oaks team member David Wilson said of the team’s winning streak, “We felt a heavy weight to bring it home for Trinity Oaks. We really appreciated

the competition from the library people. We were very impressed by their word JURISPRUDENCE.”

Teams played many high-scoring words during the event, including PHYSIOLOGICAL, QUIXOTIC, XYLOPHONE, QUARRELLING, and ADJUDICATION

Second place was nabbed by the Reading Raptors team, comprised of employees of the Rowan Public Library.

Presenting partner Trinity Oaks Senior Living Community hosted the event, and Wallace & Graham Gives, the philanthropic arm of the law firm Wallace & Graham, P.A., was again the event’s marquee sponsor.

“This year’s Scrabble competition was particularly fierce,” said Laurel Harry, the Literacy Council’s Executive Director. “A few teams have been nipping at Trinity Oaks’ heels and this year the scoring was tighter than ever. We want to thank our players, sponsors, and donors for making Scrabble Scramble XX a great success.”

“Few things leave a deeper mark on the reader, than the first book that finds its way to his heart.”

—Carlos Ruiz Zafón

LIBRARY HQ HOURS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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 - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Closed

UPCOMING RPL HOLIDAYS/CLOSURES

November 10	Closed— Veteran’s Day (Observed)
November 23 & 24	Closed—Thanksgiving
December 14	Closed- RPL Staff Development
December 25 — 27	Closed—Christmas
January 1	Closed—New Year’s Day
January 15	Closed— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE 2023



Playing to win: Teams came prepared to get creative with their words.



A Defended Title: For the 8th year in a row, Trinity Oaks placed first in the wordsmithing competition.



The Scrabble Sling: Thank you to **Tito's Vodka** for providing the main ingredient in our signature event cocktail.



Teamwork: The Reading Raptors, comprised of employees of RPL, nabbed second place.



In the Zone: The Wallace and Graham team carefully mapping out their board.



Prizes galore: Executive Director Laurel Harry divvies up raffle prizes.



All focus: Elizabeth Roy and RCLC tutors Debbie and Joel Scott build their board.

USING TED TALKS FOR LISTENING PRACTICE

Looking for new ways to incorporate listening practice into your ESL lessons? Try incorporating TED Talks!

TED started as a conference for Technology, Entertainment, and Design ideas but now they offer hundreds of videos on a multitude of topics. In addition to the TED Talks from their conferences, they have original podcasts and short educational videos.

The videos are posted for free on ted.com with transcripts in English and other languages. The speed of the video can also be slowed down to three-quarters and half speed.

The videos are also available on YouTube.

Listening to a TED Talk works great as a homework exercise, or as a jumping off point for conversations.

With hundreds of videos on loads of topics spanning technology, history, culture, and more, you are bound to find a topic to engage your student.

TED Ideas worth spreading

Learn more about TED and browse their videos on ted.com.

The Buzz

COOKIES AND COLLABORATION: HOLIDAY SOCIAL AND TRAINING EVENT

Calling all tutors! Join us from 10:00am until 12:00pm on Friday, December 8th in the Stanback Auditorium for an end of the year in-service training and social event. Light refreshments will be served; holiday cookies encouraged! Please RSVP by calling the office at 704-216-8266 or email sjones@rcliteracy.org.



Come get your cookie fix and some new ideas for your lessons!

YOUTH TUTORING KICKS OFF

Youth tutoring kicked off in October with the start of the Gator Reading Club at Isenberg Elementary and the reading group at North Rowan Middle. Volunteers in these programs meet with their student(s) at least once a week for 45 minutes.

This will also be the fourth year that we are providing tutors to North Rowan High School. Tutors are particularly needed for their Night School program, which runs Monday through Wednesday from 4pm until 6pm. Night School is for students who have modified school days or are trying to catch up in core classes to graduate on time. If you have an hour or two per week to help a struggling student and keep them on track for graduation, please contact our office.

Volunteers in our Youth Literacy program go through initial training and background checks before being paired with students. The schools evaluate test scores to identify students who are at risk for falling behind. Volunteers work with students at least once a week to build literacy skills.

Need for youth tutoring is growing rapidly. If you have an hour a week to help a child struggling with reading, please give us a call at 704-216-8266.

PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

As the weather cools and snow comes to Rowan County, make sure you stay up to date on any library closings.

To get alerts about library closings, submit your tutoring hours, and receive other Literacy Council related notifications, you can download and sign up on Spaces by Wix. You can sign up in just a few steps:

1. Go to our website (www.rcliteracy.org) on your mobile device. When the homepage opens up, a banner will display on the top of the screen. Tap the “Go to App” button.
2. The next screen will invite you to join us on the Spaces by Wix app. Tap the “Download and Join” button.
3. The button will redirect you to the app store. Download the Spaces app. Once the app has finished downloading, tap “Open.”
4. When you open the app, you will see our logo and “Request to Join RC Literacy Council.” Tap the “Join” button. After you tap “Join,” you will need to set up an account. The app and account are free.
5. After you set up an account, you will be directed to a home page. You will get a pop-up asking if you would like to receive notifications. Tap “Allow.”
6. Your request to join RCLC will be pending approval. We will approve your request shortly. Once your request is approved, you will be able to access the app!

If you have any trouble with downloading and joining us on the app, please come by our office and we will be happy to help!



To get the latest RCLC updates and library closing alerts, download and follow us on the **Spaces** by Wix app.

WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUES

After last year’s webinar success, ProLiteracy is once again offering free webinars for tutors.

Funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the webinar series focuses on six areas: Basic Literacy, High-Level English Language Learning, High School Equivalency, Low-Level English Language Learning, Math, and Workplace Literacy.

Upcoming Webinars include:

- Using Phonics to Improve Reading and Engagement Regardless of Student’s Reading Level
- Learning through Context for High-level ELL
- Starting from Scratch: Working with Low-level ELL Students with little-to-no First Language Literacy.

We will be sending out information regarding these webinars as they come out. If you would like to participate in a session but the time does not work for you, the webinars will be available to watch on ProLiteracy’s YouTube channel after a few days.



Thank you to the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** for this and other contributions to ending illiteracy!

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2023 Board of Directors:

Don Doering-President
Nan Lund-Vice-President
Macon Stewart-Secretary
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Allison Doby
Bonnie Harrell
Ana Avila Araniba
Alissa Redmond
Daniel Wallace

Staff:

Laurel Harry-Executive Director
Samantha Jones-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

25

25 new students registered with RCLC for the first time between August 1 and October 31.

66%

66.3% of all 3rd through 8th graders in Rowan-Salisbury Schools were Not Proficient on their Reading EOG in 2022-2023.

35

Number of students currently on RCLC's adult waiting list. We have new students signing up daily for our adult ABE and ESL programs. If you have 90 minutes a week to help one of these students, please let us know.

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PLEASE
PLACE
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Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5