



## Tutor Communication

### April 10, 2014

A semi-monthly electronic newsletter for adult literacy tutors

#### Quick Links

Are you connecting with us on Facebook?



Visit Our Website

Have a general question?

[Email The Literacy Connection](#)

Have a question about your learner?

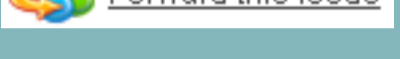
[Email Tine](#)

Can you share our Tutor Training Schedule?

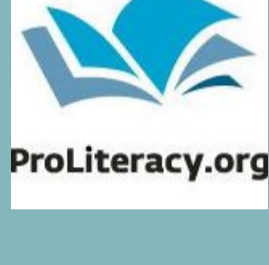
[Email Outreach](#)

Share a helpful website or tutoring tip with other tutors!

[Email Tutor Tools](#)



Visit ProLiteracy Website



#### Helpful Web Links

##### Webingles

This is a simple site offering video, audio, and some exercises focusing on vocabulary and grammar.

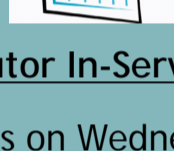
Explanations are all in Spanish.

##### Math is Fun

Visually attractive exercises and good explanation of basic math are presented at this site.

Many of the exercises are interactive.

##### SAVE THE DATE



##### Tutor In-Service

Join us on Wednesday, April 16, from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Elgin Room at the Gail Borden Public Library for a Spring tutor in-service. Our guest will be Amy Stern, Community Relations Officer with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Amy will present "Immigration 101" offering up-to-date information about immigration laws, policies, and services available through the USCIS. Please call 847-742-6565 or email [Yadira Alva](mailto:Yadira.Alva) if you plan to attend.

##### Tutor-Learner Recognition

Plan to join the celebration!

June 5, 2014

Gail Borden

Public Library



Happy National Volunteer Week! The Literacy Connection loves its volunteers.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974. This year marks the 40th anniversary of National Volunteer Week, a week that celebrates individuals who volunteer to help others.

The Literacy Connection is especially grateful for the many volunteers who have given their time and talents and who continue to support our mission - to help adults reach their literacy goals.

We salute you every day, but especially this week!



heck it out!

#### Tutor Tip from Tine - Preparing for Severe Weather

Along with spring comes rain, thunderstorms, and the possibility of severe weather. The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) recently shared that in Spring of 2013 extensive flooding throughout the state of Illinois resulted in more than \$166 million in federal assistance to individuals for essential home repairs and clean-up. Later in November of the same year, severe storms and tornadoes left more than 1,000 homes severely damaged or destroyed throughout Illinois. Disasters such as these remind us that unexpected weather can occur at anytime. None of us hopes to experience the damage and dangers that many in Illinois experienced over the past year. There are things we can do to prepare for severe weather.

FEMA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) encourage all Americans to learn their weather risks and take steps to prepare. Consider a lesson with your learner on how to prepare for potential upcoming severe spring weather.

Visit [Storm Weather Facts & Tips for Safety](#) offered by the NOAA. The link provides excellent resources you can use to prepare a lesson on weather safety for your learner, including videos on what to do before, during, and after a tornado.

#### Thinking Out of the Box - Tutors Share

**Peg and Forrest Tynan** recently shared that they purchased a 97 cent Seek and Find magazine at Walmart as an English teaching tool.

"Throughout the week Estela has very little English engagement at home. One week with the Seek and Find magazine, and she said she likes doing them that she did one each night." Great idea! Thank you for sharing.



**Marsha Callahan** also shared that she uses word searches with her learners to help practice word recognition and spelling. Marsha shared the following link for creating a word search puzzle based on words with phonics. Check it out - [Funfonix!](#)

#### Trivia Bee Countdown Begins

Trivia Bee Fundraiser is only two weeks away! We are excited to have 26 teams as of today officially registered for the trivia competition. There is still time to register a team. Visit [Register a Trivia Bee Team](#) and join the fun!



We certainly hope that many of you will join us at Grand Victoria Casino for the 17th Annual Trivia Bee Fundraiser. But did you know you can still support the Bee even if you are unable to attend on April 26?

Here are some easy ways you can show your support:

- Purchase a **Grand Prize Raffle ticket**. Tickets are on sale NOW at The Literacy Connection office. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Three lucky winners will take home great prizes.
- **Show Support** to teams competing in the trivia competition with **Team Challenge**. Visit our [Trivia Bee Fundraiser Event Page](#) to make an online donation in support of a team or team member participating in the competition or simply make a general Trivia Bee donation. Team names are listed on the event page.
- **Support Fund-a-Need**: Help The Literacy Connection raise dollars to fund three specific needs for one fiscal year. You can help raise funds for Testing Materials, the News for You Online Newspaper, and Office Supplies. Select one or all of the needs. EVERY donation helps! Visit [Trivia Bee Fundraiser Event Page](#) to learn specifics about each need and how you can help.

#### Gift Basket Raffle Update

Our gift baskets are looking good. Thank you to everyone who has donated items for this popular raffle; always a highlight at Trivia Bee. This year we will offer fewer baskets, but higher value baskets. Donating an item for the Gift Basket Raffle is an excellent way for you to support the fundraiser.

We are in need of some specific items to fill our themed baskets, but time is running out. If you can help purchase an item it would really help. Please let the Trivia Bee Committee know **NO LATER THAN Monday, April 14** if they can count on you providing an item. You can contact them at [elginliteracy@gmail.com](mailto:elginliteracy@gmail.com) or call Bridget at 847-742-6565. Thank you for your support!

Here is a sampling of items that are still needed:

- iTunes gift card (minimum \$25)
- Google Play gift card (minimum \$25)
- Amazon gift card
- 12 pack of Guinness Beer-bottles please!
- Guinness Beer Mug/Stein
- Martha Stewart travel bowl for pet dogs (available at PetSmart), plus additional dog treats & toys - total should value \$25
- \$25 worth of dog treats & toys
- \$25 Petco gift card
- Cupcake decorations
- Two boxes of gourmet tea
- Christmas items (New items only & valued at \$50)

See you at the Bee!

#### VolunteerPalooza Takes Place April 12



Grab a friend or neighbor and check out **Elgin's 1st Annual VolunteerPalooza!** Over 50 local organizations, including The Literacy Connection, will be on hand to help people find the right volunteer opportunity. The event takes place in the Heritage

Ballroom in The Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way. There will be live entertainment, raffle prizes and snacks. The event is free and open to the public from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

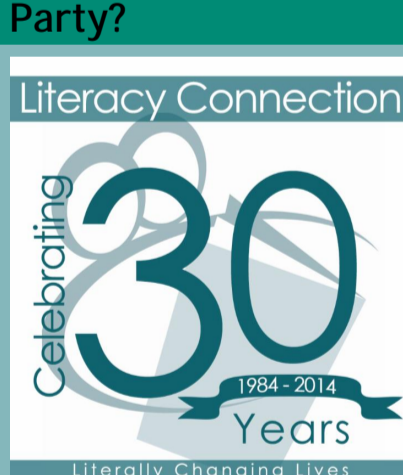
#### Bilingual Books



Several tutors have stopped in the office asking if we have books for beginner readers that are written in English, but also offer the Spanish translation on the same page, essentially a bilingual book. Good news-the Gail Borden Public Library has an entire collection of bilingual books in the Children's area located on the main level. Visit Kidspace and ask a Youth Librarian where bilingual books are located. The library has several collections including Weekly Reader and Book Worms. The books are offered for different reading levels, most include pictures or illustrations. Hopefully this helps!

#### Do You Enjoy Planning a Party?

The Literacy Connection is excited to celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2014. A celebration will take place later this year to commemorate this proud milestone. Help us make this event special for all our literacy friends and community supporters. We are looking for a Committee Chair and Committee Members to plan our 30-year celebration. If you're interested, please email [Karen Oswald](mailto:Karen.Oswald) or call her at 847-742-6565.



#### Literacy Connection Scholarship Returns



Thanks to an anonymous donor, The Literacy Connection will again offer one \$500 scholarship to be used to meet undergraduate college expenses for the 2014-2015 academic year. Applicants need to be recommended by an active, registered Literacy Connection learner. Eligibility requirements and applications are available at The Literacy Connection office. The deadline to apply is June 1, 2014. Please share this wonderful opportunity with your learner. Questions? Please call 847-742-6565 or email [koswald@elginliteracy.org](mailto:koswald@elginliteracy.org).

#### Home Ownership Classes Available in May



Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) is taking registration for its May home ownership classes offered on May 3 and 10 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Attendees who qualify from Kane County are eligible for up to \$10,000 in down payment assistance or up to \$23,000 for Purchase-Rehab Assistance. Interested individuals are encouraged to register early as classes fill up quickly. They also must attend both sessions to receive the necessary home buyer education certificate, which is a prerequisite for the loan assistance offers. Bilingual staff is available at NHS. Classes meet at 163 E. Chicago St. in Elgin. To register, contact:

- Norma Hommrich at 847-695-0399, ext. 4603
- [www.nhschicago.org/site/3C/category/calendar](http://www.nhschicago.org/site/3C/category/calendar)

Share Your Love for Tutoring. Tell a friend, family member, neighbor, or work colleague about becoming a tutor **We need more good volunteers like you!**

#### Tutor Training 2014

- April 17, 21, 23, and 28, from 5-9 p.m. at the Dundee Library, 555 Barrington Avenue, East Dundee, IL 60118 ([Map](#))
- May 10 and 17, from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Gail Borden Public Library, South Elgin Room, 270 North Grove Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 ([Map](#))