

TUTOR TALK NEWSLETTER

Laura Gross, Executive Director | (301) 739-4208 | office@literacyofwcmd.org

UPFRONT WITH LAURA GROSS ●●●●●●●●

Gratitude for life's many gifts is a hallmark of this season. And here's a random amenity I'm thankful for: GPS, the Global Positioning System. Speaking as a directionally deficient human, having a device give me guidance about how to get somewhere is a saving grace. Anyone using GPS has probably heard "Recalculating" as the system tries to avoid traffic or find a different route after a wrong turn. It's a grown-up version of the buddy system, but specifically for directions. And now the Literacy Council is creating a GPS to suit our tutors' needs: Guidance and Partnership Support. New and seasoned tutors alike have so much to offer by connecting: "Recalculating" after an unproductive student session, receiving another perspective on a difficult language hurdle, or simply sharing the highs and lows of tutoring! Those who follow our Facebook page (hint, hint!) saw that 7 new tutors were welcomed into LCWC after completing the November 9th training. Here's an opportunity to pair the insight of longtime tutoring experience with the novelty of a fresh approach. Interested in utilizing our version of GPS? Email me with your ideas about partnering with another tutor. Here's hoping GPS will offer more personalized support to our tutors in 2025! Admittedly, the benefits of gratitude and collaboration work in reverse. After making a choice to be more thankful, so often the opportunities for gratitude and appreciation abound before us. And by investing into others, one ultimately invests back into their own deepest soul and self. Hence, the sneaky and fulfilling rewards of service.

TUTOR SPOTLIGHT ●●●●●●●●

15 years ago, Allan Bare read an article in the Herald Mail newspaper about what the Literacy Council did and an upcoming tutor training session. He attended and has been tutoring ever since. Allan says, "Because I could read, I was able to find out about the class and affect others' lives in the process." Those 'others' included students from Romania, Peru and other countries. With Allan's help they each achieved a goal -- obtaining a commercial drivers license, becoming a US citizen, passing the GED, or simply learning how to communicate with their child's teachers and doctors. Although working with his students is all the reward Allan wants, he's enjoyed other rewards including a surprise birthday party, Spanish lessons, and new friendships.



Board Member, Allan Bare at a new tutor training session.

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●●● LCWC CALENDAR - SAVE THE DATE! ●●●



Taste of Tutoring

Monday, January 27, 2025

5:00pm-7:00pm

Smithsburg Library



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! The LCWC is looking for 8-10 volunteers to assist at our upcoming tutor recruitment event! Volunteers will take on the exciting role of "chefs/salespeople," engaging with prospective tutors and sharing the rewarding experience of volunteering with LCWC. In addition to your enthusiastic participation, volunteers are asked to bring single-serving food items, either homemade or store-bought, to share with attendees. Join us and help make this event a success!



DEAR TUTOR TALK

LAST MONTH'S QUESTION: I love working with my student! But she always wants to talk about her family and her home life—and we don't get to spend much time with her workbooks. How can I make sure we get time to work on critical skills?

YOUR ANSWERS (THANKS):

- Try turning her chatter into language experiences. Have her write down a story she tells you, or write it down for her. Then spend some time going over the story to reinforce the skills you're working on - grammar, pronunciation, etc.
- Create a lesson agenda with your student. Build in 10 minutes for her news. When the time's up, move on.
- Remember that conversation is an essential skill for many students who seek more fluency in speaking and listening. It's all good!

NEW QUESTION: My student only shows up to about half of our scheduled sessions, but he seems to value my help. How can I help him be more consistent?



Help Tutor Talk answer this question!

Send us your suggestions and we'll publish them in our next newsletter.

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RESOURCE CENTER ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Oxford Picture Dictionary (probably the most used book in our library collection) comes as a free app that tutors and students can download.

This is the link of the "The Oxford Picture Dictionary" app that's for android phones or tablets:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=oxfordpicturedictionary.dictionary.english.grammar&pcampaignid=web_share

This is the link for the Oxford "English Learner's Dictionary" for iPhones/tablets:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=learnerapp.dictionary.english&hl=en_US

Have a great resource to share? Send it to Tutor Talk!

●●●●● UGLY SWEATER PARTY

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Ugly Sweater Party! It was a fantastic time, and we loved seeing all the festive attire. The artwork featured in the bottom right photo was used for this year's ornament giveaway. If you weren't able to attend and would like to receive one, just let us know—we'd be happy to get one to you!



IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS? EMAIL JUDY CHAMBERS AT [JANDSCHAMBERS@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:jandschambers@outlook.com)
OR LAURA GROSS AT OFFICE@LITERACYOFWCMD.ORG