

TUTOR TALK NEWSLETTER

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

UPFRONT WITH LAURA GROSS ●●●●●●●●

After watching our incredible volunteers in action at the Taste of Tutoring event, I spent the evening considering the characteristics of a good tutor. And because I'm a giant nerd, here's the acrostic I created:

T-Thoughtful
U-Understanding
T-Teachable
O-Observant
R-Respectful

Notice words that AREN'T included: Academic, Leader, Educated, Credentialed. Please hear me: The aforementioned attributes clearly are NOT negative ones, they simply are not the most important ones for tutors. Our students don't need ONE MORE "qualified" person in their lives telling them what to do. They need someone to listen, to show up, to treat them as an equal, and to collaborate with them on their learning journey. Thank you LCWC volunteers for doing all this and more; the Literacy Council is proud of the impact you are making within this community.

TUTOR SPOTLIGHT ●●●●●●●●

Becky is a retired professional who now dedicates her time as a full-time volunteer. She serves as the President of the Literacy Council's Board of Directors. Becky became involved with the Literacy Council in the 1990s as a tutor, and over the years, she has worked with numerous Basic Literacy and ESL students. Today, she plays a key role in conducting initial student evaluations, leading Tutor Trainings, and managing the Book Inventory. She's also available to support tutors who may be unsure of how to proceed with a student's progress. Tutors can reach her at (301) 988-8003. In addition to her work with the Literacy Council, Becky serves as the Delivery Coordinator for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit with the mission of ensuring no child sleeps on the floor. She occasionally leads volunteer crews with Habitat for Humanity and enjoys participating in Volunteer in Mission Trips. At her church, Benevola UMC, Becky co-leads the Tuesday morning quilting group and serves as the Lay Leader. Becky has been married to Klaus, who is from Germany, for over 50 years. They met in Nigeria, West Africa, where their parents were missionaries. The couple has two daughters, both of whom live nearby with their four wonderful grandchildren.



Board President, Becky Hein

TUTOR TALK NEWSLETTER

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

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

Chilling with Chili

Monday, February 10, 2025

12:00pm-2:00pm

Literacy Council Office



A Tutor gathering for meeting, greeting, and **EATING!** Laura will provide vegetarian and meat chilis with toppings. Water bottles will be available.

Bring your own bowl and spoon!
We hope to see you there!

●●●●●●●●●● DEAR TUTOR TALK

LAST MONTH'S QUESTION: My low-beginning student is a native English-speaker. She thinks the Laubach curriculum is too basic for her. I want to add something that has more appeal, like a fashion magazine. How do I do this when it's far beyond their reading ability?

YOUR ANSWERS (THANKS):

- Jenny P: Trying to read something beyond their current reading level is how your student will improve and climb to the next reading level! Tell them to keep a vocabulary list of all unfamiliar words, then look up the definitions and use the words in their own conversation with others or in their own thoughts.
- Michael R: The main point is finding something that the student wants to be able to read—wanting to know information about a game, a hobby or a skill—or a hero—is often motivating. I managed to get my first student interested in reading by finding out that he liked an on-line multiple player fantasy game and that he was interested in the backstories of the characters. I captured the text from the website and reformatted and printed out the stories about the characters he was most interested in. He was thrilled to see them in print and try to read them for himself. Some of vocabulary was above his reading level, but he was motivated to try to read beyond what he knew.

NEW QUESTION: I have been tutoring my student for awhile; I believe we have reached the pinnacle of what can be achieved academically from this relationship. However, we have grown close during our learning sessions and I don't want to cause hurt feelings. How can I conclude things in a way that doesn't ruin our relationship?

Help Tutor Talk answer this question!

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



TUTOR TALK NEWSLETTER

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

RESOURCE CENTER ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

¡Conversemos! Spanish/English Chat Group, meets at the Fletcher Library

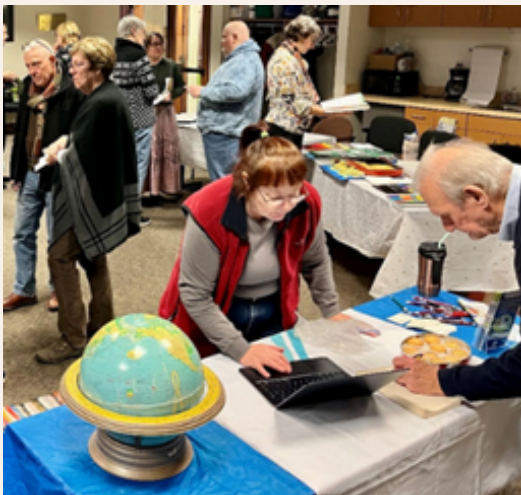
Want to brush up on your language skills, but need speaking practice? Look no further! This informal group for speakers of both English and Spanish is the perfect opportunity to learn in a fun, no-pressure environment. Come chat with us!

The group meets twice per month on the 2nd and last Monday of the month. Register to reserve your spot!

Follow this link for more information about this resource:

<https://wcfl.librarymarket.com/event/conversemos-spanishenglish-chat-group-grupo-de-chat-espanolingles-52170>

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



A TASTE OF SUCCESS!

12 people with an interest in tutoring and 4 new tutors who just completed the Zoom training showed up for our Taste of Tutoring event at Smithsburg Library. Chefs Allan, Becky, Janet, Jean, Jenny, Judy and Richard brought yummy treats and shared tutoring experiences. As our fearless leader Laura said, "The food was an afterthought and your stories were the main course. It made me very proud to see the heart of LCWC - our amazing volunteers - at work."

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