

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

Happy Birthday Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County! We have been tutoring for three years and have made a positive impact in Kewaunee County. We have met every challenge while providing the best possible instruction for our ESL, Pre GED, GED, and basic education students.

Realizing that our organization was maturing rapidly, our board of directors formed a 5 Year Plan Study Committee about a year ago and teamed up with UW-Extension's Claire Thompson. The committee explored our organization's strengths and weaknesses and planned our journey for the next five years. The plan will be presented to the full board this July for review and revision. You will find out more about our 5 year plan in the future. I will say that the plan should provide a more efficient organization and will provide better services and more opportunities for our students.

THE STAR

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Comprehension Strategies

By Sister Lorraine Aspenleiter

Jo Allison Scott was given a warm welcome especially by those who had attended last year's session on Reading Comprehension. The welcome was extended to all the tutors by Maureen Kinnard, who came prepared with cookies and coffee.

News at a glance:

Awards for Student Writing

Features:

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Board members



Jo Allison Scott during Reading Comprehension Workshop

To introduce her subject, Jo passed out a basket of various objects. She asked each participant to choose one, look at it, and see what message it suggested concerning our work and relationship with our students.

The sharing was varied. From this, Jo explored the meaning of comprehension, and the various patterns that could help the student comprehend the written and spoken word in story or conversation.

The key to reading comprehension is in making connections. This must occur in three areas: alphabetic (decoding the printed word), fluency and in recognition of vocabulary. The result is some measure of comprehension.

When teaching for comprehension one must be aware of:

- 1) the perceptions of both the reader and the tutor
- 2) the text to be comprehended
- 3) the activity in which the comprehension is taking place.

For this to be successful, it is important that the tutor guides the student by modeling with pictures, hand movements and other examples, by providing practice for the student to demonstrate some degree of comprehension, and by monitoring the development.

Since we all think differently, it is helpful for the tutor to think out loud. This puts the student at ease, and encourages him to think differently and yet to come to some of the same conclusions. It makes it clear that there are many ways to think and discover, so they have no need to fear making a mistake.

Jo's eagerness to communicate her own love for and methods of teaching kept everyone alert and eager to try some of these techniques with their own students. At the end of the conference she still had more to share and offered some books and papers which she had with her. Barb Baldwin picked up some materials which are now available at the Literacy Center.



What's New in the Resource Center?

Our Resource Center has recently been reorganized to make it more user friendly. All supplementary materials have been organized into areas of reading comprehension, bi-lingual books, professional books, conversation, writing skills, and miscellaneous materials. Each book has a sticker with one of the above areas on the cover for easy return. A handy updated Resource Center Guide will be e-mailed or mailed to you for reference.

Books on CD and CD players are ready to be checked out. Titles were listed in the May "Star." All books have interest levels from middle school through adult.

Level 1 is written at first to second grade level, while level 2 books are at third to fourth grade level. Each CD has two speeds (directions are on the CD) and most stories are 30 minutes long or less. Complete withdrawal details are available at Hillcrest School on the top of the book case that stores the CD's.

If you live in the Casco area or west of Casco and cannot get to Hillcrest School, call Bob (845-2516) and he will pick up any Resource Center materials for you.

Remodeling of the Resource Center has been completed and the new windows give the center a new, bright perspective.



Dominion Recognition Day

Recognition Day 2009, Literacy Partners event of the year, will be held on October 11, 2009 at the Kewaunee Grade School Cafeteria. Recognition Day honors our hard-working students, dedicated tutors, board members, and wonderful supporters. This year, special recognition will be given to tutors with 250 hours of tutoring (tutoring and prep time). Dominion Energy, one of our wonderful supporters, will sponsor the event and have a special present for our students and their children. Please mark October 11, 2009 on your calendar with a Recognition Day note. Complete details will be in our September newsletter.

Student Wins in Essay Contest

On May 12, 2009, Bob Garfinkel and his student traveled to Milwaukee to attend the awards ceremony for the MATC Essay Contest. Ninety-one adult literacy students (ESL, GED students from State Technical Schools and GED students from correctional systems) received awards for the essays they submitted. A total of 360 essays were submitted. Students were given a beautiful certificate, pocket dictionary, and a photo of the student receiving the award. The collection of winning essays was published in an attractive book called, "The Fabric of Life" which can be found at our Resource Center, Bob's house, and at the Algoma and Kewaunee Public Libraries. Our winning essay, "My Dreams Came True," was featured in the May edition of the "Star."

When asked about his student's recognition, Bob said, "I was so proud of my student when his name was called to go up on stage. People applauded and cheered each recipient. On that night, we were all tutors, family and published authors. The entire experience was just wonderful!"

Muriel Seidl's student also submitted an essay in this contest. Although his story was not selected, all students submitting stories were winners. The following is Muriel's student's essay. He is a highly motivated ESL student, has been in the program about a year, and has finished two levels in Laubach. Congratulations Muriel and her student for their hard work and effort!

My name is Student X. I am 32 years old and I live in Casco, Wisconsin. I came here from Honduras in December of 2005. I then lived in Maryland. There I lived 1 year working in construction. Later I came here to Wisconsin and started work on the farms. My second year in Wisconsin, I had the opportunity to start learning English. This has helped me feel more secure in this country and at my job. I feel very happy to know English.

I have my books and my teacher Muriel has been helping me a lot to learn much better English. Each day I learn more and use more English, but there is more I want to know. My family in Honduras is very proud of me. My mom, my dad, my wife, my son, and my seven siblings have received some pictures of the party where I got my diploma in the second level (Recognition Day). Well now I am in the third level. I thank Mr. Bob Garfinkel for the opportunity he gave me. I want to use my time wisely and learn a lot in this language.

Just before the printing of this newsletter, we received an email that the Key Newspaper and the essay contest for next year have been ended due to budget cuts. Maybe it's time for us to put together our own book?



The Trainer's Corner

Barb Baldwin

Wow! Summer has finally arrived!! After being cooped up with our students, let's use the sunshine and warmth to our advantage. How about meeting with your student at one of our area's beautiful parks or simply taking a walk around the neighborhood? This simple activity could add dozens of new words to your student's vocabulary and give your student a chance to ask questions that may never come up in class.

We took our tutoring session to the Manitowoc School Forest and Point Beach State Forest. It was her first visit. Both have beautiful trails and a beach and they are just around the corner from each other. We hiked a trail and drove through the campground. It was a nice opportunity to acquaint her with what our area has to offer.

I explained that while the Manitowoc School Forest was free to enjoy. The state part would require a daily fee or a seasonal sticker and additional fees to camp. She is not quite sure about camping, but was

very interested in the trail to the dog beach as she has a very large husky that loves to be active.

It was a day well spent and a nice opportunity to engage in conversation together.

Set your Calendar

The Event of the Year

What: Recognition Day

When: October 11, 2009

Where: Kewaunee Grade School

Watch for more details in the next "STAR."

Introducing our Tutor of the Season

Joan Dalebroux

Our Tutor of the Season is Joan Dalebroux, who spent most of her adult life farming and working part time in the healthcare field. She is now retired, and very involved with all the activities of a large family—seven children and twenty grandchildren. After being out of the healthcare field for several years, and missing that personal contact with people, she took the course of study to prepare her for working as a hospice volunteer. Now she volunteers in a hospice as well as at “Wellspring for Women.”

A friend recruited her for tutoring when Literacy Partners began in Kewaunee County. Joan is glad that she was encouraged to go for the training because she finds the experience to be very rewarding. “It’s exciting to help someone learn new speaking, reading, and writing skills. I also have a greater appreciation of the people and their culture as I learn more about them. I’m proud to say that I’m a tutor for Literacy Partners because I truly believe in its cause.”



Joan Dalebroux – Tutor of the Season

Of This and That

- President Bob received a generous donation from the Kewaunee Rotary Club. The picture was not taken in the South Pacific, but rather in Jan Zenner’s house. Jan Zenner is behind the camera.



- Krissy Klaubach, one of our fine tutors, had her first child (a boy) in early May. Congratulations to the new mom and dad.
- Bob Garfinkel recently met the new Kewaunee Superintendent of Schools, Jean Broadwater, in our Resource Center at Hillcrest School. Jean wanted to find out about our program and supports our goals and objectives.
- Thank you to Dominion energy for renewing their commitment to literacy in Kewaunee County.
- Thank you to the Luxemburg-Casco Intermediate School for donating 2 sets of encyclopedias to Literacy Partners and for Sandy Ehren for making it possible.
- Congratulations to Muriel Seidl and her student for finishing level 3 in Laubach.
- Congratulations to JoAnn Werner and her student for finishing Level 1.

We Recognize ----

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 Jill Jorgensen, UW-Extension

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