

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

The true measure of a literacy organization is not the number of tutors or students it has, or the amount of money it raises. The true measure of a literacy council is the accomplishments of its students. Many of our students have exceeded our dreams and have inspired their tutors, our Board of Directors, and supporters. In the last 4 months, three of our students have gained US Citizenship, one student has received the GED certificate and two more are waiting the scheduling of the GED oral exit interview. There are numerous student personal goals achieved that are just as important. We have students attending parent teacher conferences that never attended because of a language barrier. I hear from local retailers that more Latinos are shopping locally. More of our students are handling everyday situations more effectively due to the efforts of our wonderful tutors.

If your student is not achieving as well as expected, please contact Barb Baldwin (920-776-1541), Maureen Kinnard (920-837-7478) or Bob Garfinkel (920-845-2516) for help and suggestions. Remember, as a tutor, you are never alone. We are as close as your phone!

*Note: The first person (tutor, supporter, etc) to contact Bob at 920-676-2061 or Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com with the correct answer to the following question will receive a \$20.00 gift certificate to Billy's on Main in Luxemburg:

What did Bob have in mind by naming his editorial "From the Back of the Boat"?

THE STAR

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Healthy Communities

Anne Laurent

The 2012 Health Literacy Committee is in full force!
We are planning many exciting events for this year.

First of all, we are working with a PTA group at LC to put on a first-aid clinic for any of their members who are interested. It is our goal to reach any adult with school age children or who interacts with school age children and teach them about general first aid practices. This is going to be a significantly larger event than we had planned-and we couldn't be more excited!

We will also, once again, collaborate with the "Back To School" event that happens each year in August to help Kewaunee County families get their kids the supplies they need to start the school year out on the right foot. In 2011, Literacy Partners gave each child and adult dental products (toothbrush, tooth paste, floss, timers and literature). This year, we hope to expand our giving (through local and national grants), and possibly give each child a new pair of shoes, as well as some personal hygiene products. This would surely help these students get ready to go "Back To School."

Healthy Communities (continued.)

Through a very successful “What To Do When Your Child Is Sick” program last year, we were contacted by a daycare center that would like us to go into her center and present this program for staff. We plan to also offer this program to other daycares in Kewaunee County. What a fantastic way to spread the word about this great book, a great resource for parents and caretakers alike!

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions about health literacy concerns that could be addressed in Kewaunee County, please contact Bob (garfinkel.bob@gmail.com) or Anne (annielaurent@gmail.com). We would love to hear your input!

Brat Fry 2012

This year, we will once again take over the Festival Brat Stand!



Tuesday, February 21 was the non-profit Brat Fry Raffle. Literacy Partners received Friday, July 12, 2012 as their brat fry date. Due to the overwhelming amount of non-profit groups that attended, we were only able to get one date. All Literacy Partners volunteers who came and worked last year had a fantastic time! It's a great way to get the word out about our organization, as well as raise some much needed money for Literacy Partners. If you are interested in volunteering for a shift (8:30 am–1 pm or 1 pm--closing), please contact Bob or Anne. Thanks!

Two Exciting Workshops Set

Our two workshops for this winter-spring should prove to be excellent. Ideas for the presentations came from our tutor survey that was emailed and mailed last fall. Thank you for your excellent input!

Learning About Hispanic Culture

The first workshop was the item most frequently mentioned in the survey and it concerned learning more about the Hispanic Culture. The presentation will be March 7th at the Luxemburg Casco Middle School (Casco) at 6:30 pm in the Home Economics Room. Many seats have been reserved with some openings left if interested. Call or email Bob today.

Father Bill Ribbens (Norbertine) and Sister Guadalupe Munoz (Sister of Our Lady of Charity) will be presenting their observations of the Hispanic Culture at the March 7th workshop. This workshop will prove invaluable for all tutors who instruct a Hispanic student and others working within the culture. Famers with Hispanic employees, teachers, Kewaunee County department heads and key employers will also be invited to attend. An RSVP is required.

Improving Our Student's Spelling

The second workshop is slated for April 12, 2012 at 6:30 pm at NWTC in Luxemburg. The topic will be "How to Improve My Student's Spelling." Shawn Jensen will concentrate on spelling while Monica Thao will discuss the importance of pronunciation when spelling. Both instructors are NWTC educators. Tutors working with Basic Education and English Language Learners will gain important information from these presentations. RSVP to Bob before April 1, 2012.

Shawn Jensen

Shawn Jensen is an ELL (English Language Learner) Instructor at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in Green Bay, WI and is instrumental in developing a highly successful integrated basic education program with trades called Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE). She has developed the curricula for ELL RISE Welding, ELL RISE Medical Assistant and ELL RISE CNA. She is currently team teaching her second cohort of ELL RISE Welding and her first cohort of ELL RISE Medical Assistant Program. Shawn has also developed pronunciation curriculum and currently teaches ELL Levels 5/6 and an Online Writing Course for ELL. She is a graduate of UWGB with a double degree in Spanish and Human Development, ESL Certificate. She will graduate in April 2012 with her Master's in Teaching Leadership from Silver Lake College.



Monica Thao

Monica Thao graduated from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay. She went on to get her Master in Arts Counseling – Higher Education degree at Lakeland College. Currently, Monica is pursuing her Master of Science in Education – Reading through the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. She has been teaching English Language Learning courses at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) since 2006.

Monica has taught at various sites including the New Community Shelter, American Foods, NWTC Luxemburg, the Asian American Resource Center, the Howe Resource Center, and the Wisconsin Job Center. She is bilingual in Hmong and English.



Of This and That...

- Congratulations to Chris, Mina & Nelly on their new US Citizenship!*
- Congratulations to Maria, Raymond and Josie for attaining (or almost attaining) a GED*.
- We have acquired two computers from WPS for our Resource Center! They will not be set up until grants for software have been secured.
- Thank you to Denny's SuperValu and the Algoma Optimists for their financial support!

* Pictures and comments on our new citizens and GED students will be included in the May issue of The Star.

Student Success

Tom Mall, tutor

I have been asked to report on the success we have had with one of my students. Obviously, I cannot use his name, but here are the particulars that may help develop a base line:

Male.	Age 43
Mental Health Diagnosis	Down-Syndrome
Non-grad. Special Education	Various schools in Wisconsin and Florida
Reading skills	First Grade

Gary (not his real name) has stated that he could read, but all indications were to the contrary. Bob Garfinkel tested him to determine his level and ability to read and comprehend Literacy Level One printed materials. Flash cards were used to evaluate his ability to identify the words. After the initial screening, I began working with Gary to identify words from Lists 1-8 that I put on flash cards. Gary was given a printed list of the words after the use of the flash cards. He was helped when he indicated difficulty. The Literacy stories that were used (SWR) skill books (1,2,3,7,8) were introduced first using the Word List at the front of the story.

This was my method:

- 1) Review the Word List.
- 2) I would read the first line and Gary would read it after me. We would read the entire story this way
- 3) At the end of the first read, Gary would read the story to me on his own. I helped when he had difficulty.

Gary has completed the above captioned stories and is now working on the story: PETS, PUPS AND FISH (read with skill book 1. I gave computer copies of each of these stories to give Gary a copy to be used for his future practice.

I looked at DOLCH Sight Words (found online) and printed out Grade 3 Level, cut and put them on flash cards to use in class and gave Gary a printed list of the words for practice. We have finished Grade 3 of the DOLCH Sight Words and will move on from there.

Gary's future goal is to be able to read HARRY POTTER books. He takes some of his reading to the day treatment program where, when not working on the sheltered industries activities, he uses the stories to improve his reading skills. He is very proud that he is progressing in his reading skills. His family is amazed at his progress through the Literacy Program.

I am also teaching Gary to play the keyboard, but that is another story.

A note on this Student Success Story from Bob Garfinkel-- This past fall, I met with Tom and his student in Sturgeon Bay. I was impressed with Tom's energy and Gary's willingness to learn. Tom sent me an invitation mid-February to listen to Gary read. I was amazed how far Gary had come in the last 6 months! Tom and Gary meet 4 days a week, but these are not exclusively on reading. They go to the YMCA and play a piano keyboard. Both Tom and Gary have been an inspiration to everyone they come in contact with.

New in the Resource Center

Bob Garfinkel

Our Resource Center has had a face lift! Barb Baldwin and Anne Laurent helped me sort, move furniture and reorganize the center. Quite a few new materials have been added as a result of our tutor survey and are listed below. Materials should be easier to locate. Remember, if you are not able to get to the Resource Center, please call Bob and he'll get the material to you.

1. **Programmed Math for Adults** – Story problems in X, /, +, -, measurement and fractions.
2. **Longman Mathematics** – basic math
3. **Mathematics of Work** – consumer math
4. **The Picture Book Dictionary** – a MUST for Level 1,2,and 3 Hispanic students
5. **English for Everyday Activities**
6. **Fundamentals of English Grammar** – grammar for intermediate and advanced students
7. **Rapid Reads** – 10 books in the series, high interest/low vocabulary
8. **Health and Safety** – everyday health
9. **Everyday Household Tasks**
10. **Remember** – short stories of military experiences from local veterans
11. **Out & About in the World of Computers** – for beginner English Language Learners (free downloadable teacher’s guide)
12. **Bilingual Books** – too numerous to list.
13. **Practical English Usage** – outstanding for the advanced student
14. **English in Common** – Levels 1-4 for listening, speaking and reading
15. **What’s Next?** – Book 1 Multilevel phonics approach for the beginner
16. **Excellent English** – Books 1,2 & 4 Language skills for Success
17. **Ready to Write** – a first composition text

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