

## From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

Student/Tutor accomplishments have been nothing short of sensational in the last two months. Check out the "Student Success" section of this newsletter to get an idea of what I am talking about. Although this section reflects a vast number of student accomplishments, it by no means reflects the dozens of short term student accomplishments and breakthroughs in reading, conversation or accomplishing things such as conversing with store employees, government offices, and schools. We have good reason to be proud of our students, tutors and our organization as a whole.

When it comes to major and short term accomplishment of goals, what do the student/tutor teams have in common? Goal achievers have regular attendance, focus on their goals, goal commitment of both tutor and student, and a mutual respect of the student for the tutor and visa versa. If any mentioned element is missing, goal achievement is remote. If your effort needs a jumpstart, contact Bob today (920-676-2061).

This edition of *The Star* is our first newsletter for 2015. Enclosed is an almost complete calendar of events for this year. Of particular importance is our Tutor Workshop with Ann Beeson (RSVP required), a Tutor Sharing Session (RSVP required), the rescheduling of Recognition Day, and important fundraisers such as the Pig Roast and Brat Fry. Your help is greatly needed for the fry and roast. As you know, we are not tax supported and rely 100% on donations, events and grants.

# THE STAR

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## Recognition Day 2015

*A change is in the air!*

The Literacy Partners Board of Directors has decided to change Recognition Day. This year, Recognition Day will be held on Sunday, August 9, 2015 at Bruemmer Park. The event will be a pot-luck picnic lunch. We will enjoy the wonderful weather (hopefully), friends, families, and the accomplishments of our students, tutors and supporters!

Children will be able to enjoy the playgrounds, as well as the zoo. The main course will be provided by Literacy Partners, and everyone attending will be asked to bring a dish to pass. We will be located in the large shelter, and have shaded tables, as well as tables outside the shelter available. More on this event will come out later this year—we just wanted to share the exciting news and have you mark it down on your calendar!

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## Help With Heating Bills

Despite the mild winter, Energy Assistance Specialists have been busy working with over 900 applicants to receive help with their heating bills. IF you or your student would like help, call the Kewaunee County Energy and Weatherization Program at 1-800-506-5596 to schedule an appointment. The Kewaunee County office is located at Hillcrest School, across the hall from our Resource Center (room 105). Assistance is based on income and the number of people in the household. If you would like a brochure explaining the program, contact Bob and he will mail one to you. You and your student may also qualify for free home weatherization.

## Computer Class

Anne Laurent

Do you or your student need help in learning how to do something on the computer? We have had tutors and students express interest in learning certain aspects of computers that they seem to have trouble with.

This computer class will be significantly different than previous classes you have attended. While we will all meet at the same time, instruction/help will be 1 on 1 or 1 on 2. We will ask what you need help with and individualize instruction specifically to what you need.

No topic is off limits. Ask us and we will do our best to make it happen! It can be email, Microsoft programs (Word, Excel, etc), typing help (speed, accuracy), searching the web, etc.

If you would like help, please contact Anne Laurent at 920-632-4911 or [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com). Instruction will be held at NWTC in Luxemburg (with use of their computers) on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6 pm. We will have use of the computer lab for 1.5 hours, if needed.

**Please RSVP by Monday, February 16!**

## Health Literacy

Anne Laurent

Our Health Literacy Committee is at it again! 2015 is going to be a fantastic year. To kick off the year, the committee has planned a **Health & Safety Night** for our tutors, students, and their friends and families. The program will feature the *Casco Fire Department* talking about fire safety in the home, *Chris Seidl of Luxemburg Pharmacy* talking about prescription safety, and *Cindy Kinnard, RN*, talking about common first aid issues. The program will be on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at the LC Middle School in the Home Economics Room. It will begin at 6 pm and run for about 1.5 hours. Children are welcome to attend, just please let us know how many and ages of those coming. An informational and sign-up sheet will be sent out to all tutors via email in February.

## Tutor Training 2015

Tutor Training Spring 2015 Hillcrest School, Kewaunee		
Class	Date	Time
Orientation	March 2	9 am – 10:30 am
<i>Snow Date</i>	<i>March 3</i>	<i>9 am – 10:30 am</i>
Class 1	March 9	9 am – 12:30 pm
Class 2	March 12	9 am – 12:30 pm
Class 3	March 16	9 am – 12:30 pm
Class 4	March 19	9 am – 12:30 pm
<i>Snow Date</i>	<i>March 23</i>	<i>9 am – 12:30 pm</i>

## HELP WANTED!

After 2 mediocre Tutor Training turnouts in 2014, tutors are greatly needed in all areas of Kewaunee County! If you are sold that being a tutor was one of the best decisions you've made, please encourage your family, friends, and anyone you think would enjoy the experience to attend Tutor Orientation. Orientation simply explains our program and answers any key questions of potential tutors. Those present have a week to decide if tutoring is for them. Please have those interested in attending orientation call Bob at 920-676-2061 or [Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com).

## Student Successes

### **Partnership between East Shore and Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County is Award Winning**

By: Candace Hanneman, ESI

East Shore Industries (ESI) and Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County have worked together on various projects for over 8 years. Most recently, we have worked together through Literacy Partner volunteer Marge Weichelt.

For almost 2 years, Marge, a retired Kewaunee School District Principal, has come to East Shore once a week to work with a group of clients on improving their reading and writing skill level. The students in Marge's class not only are achieving in their studies, but presented a group story entitled, "Work Is Fun" that was published in the Literacy Council student book. This story highlights a variety of activities and events each of them participate in on a daily basis while at East Shore.



East Shore Industries students with Bob and Marge after receiving the *Thumbs Up!* Award

This student article was nominated for the "Thumbs Up" award by Literacy Council President Bob Garfinkel. The *Thumbs Up* award is given to students who have shown excellence in their classwork, dedication to their studies, or have given extra effort and taken pride in a project. After nominations are submitted, a committee makes a final decision on which projects and groups are awarded. The committee was impressed with the work put into the story, and both Marge and her class were awarded a "Thumbs Up!"

A *Thumbs Up!* was also awarded to East Shore Client, Brian, for his story and the excellent work he has done with his Literacy Partner tutor, Muriel Seidl. Brian and his tutor meet outside of East Shore and are reading the Junkyard Dan series. Brian has completed 9 books and his tests at the end of each book have been excellent!



East Shore Industries and Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County are proud of all "Thumbs Up" recipients for a job well done!!

### **GED Success**

Nancy Lamack's student, Elvira, recently completed her GED study and exit interview at NWTC Green Bay. A story of this tremendous accomplishment will be in our April newsletter. Congratulations Elvira & Nancy!

We have another GED student 95% finished with his studies. Write up and picture in our next newsletter.

Congratulations to Barb Chosa and Betty Schelis and their students for completing a level in their text!

### **New US Citizen!**

Maria, with support from Renee Koenig and Kate Phillips, passed the US Citizenship interview in the last week of January. Maria is our 9<sup>th</sup> student to earn citizenship. The citizenship ceremony will take place at the US Federal Building in Milwaukee in February or March. Ceremony pictures to follow in the next newsletter.



## Student passes the TOEFL Examination

The TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. The TOEFL is the gold standard used by universities, governments, and businesses for a person outside the USA to prove mastery of the English language. Passing the TOEFL is often a university requirement in other countries.

Kewaunee has been the host of 5 students from Guatemala, and each has successfully passed the TOEFL. All have returned home and are making a difference in the lives of people in their communities. If you would like further information on this effort, or would like to get involved, check the January 24, 2015 edition of *The Star-News* (front page).

### ***An excerpt from Kate Phillips, host of Sonia Enriquez, and Literacy Partners tutor and Board Member.***

My husband Ross and I had the pleasure of Sonia Enriquez's company for three months this fall. She came to study for her TOEFL exam (test of English as a foreign language) which is a graduation requirement by the university in Guatemala City where she completed her course work 5 years ago. She has been working for the water department in the city since she graduated. We are very happy to share the news that she passed her fourth attempt at this very difficult test on December 19. She has returned to Guatemala to her work and family and will have more opportunities as she can now proceed with the final paperwork to complete her degree. We are looking forward to hosting her housemate in the spring to help her toward achievement of the same goal.



Pictured are Kate Phillips and her family, along with Sonia.

## Sonia Elizabeth Enriquez Rodriguez

My US English experience has changed me as a person and has made me more confident.

The English Immersion in Kewaunee from September to December was unexpected and wonderful. I knew about that opportunity at the beginning of August 2014. At that moment, I was disappointed and frustrated because recently I had checked my Toefl<sup>1</sup> score and realized I did not pass. It was the third time that I did the test. However, when the opportunity appeared, I took it. Having the chance to live in an English speaking community gave me the tools that I needed to learn and improve the language in a natural way.

I am from Salamá Baja Verapaz at the north of Guatemala City. I studied my college career at Francisco Marroquin University. Francisco Marroquin has the English Test as a requirement to undergraduates to get a degree. I studied from 2005 to 2008 the Accounting and Audit career, but I could not get the certification because of the Toefl. My weakness in the English and not having the degree was an obstacle to get better opportunities in my professional life.

I have been studying English for many years at different English Schools in Guatemala City. For example, I studied at Guatemalan American Institute, Harmon Hall and OBM Corporation. Also, I studied with a private teacher. Learning English has not been easy for me because the method is too slow and expensive.

Moreover, living with an English speaking family and to be involved in their activities helped me to practice and every day learn more and more. I could notice the improvement of the four language skills listening, speaking, reading and writing. In my opinion, this is the better alternative for someone who is learning English can do.

I know that the cost to the hosting family is too high. They invest in Guatemalan student's money, knowledge and time. For that reason, we are very thankful to them. In addition, the UFM students have the commitment and the

motivation to take advantage of this period. We want to learn and stay focused on the goal. In Kewaunee was very important to use very well the time. Personally, I am very thankful with the Kewaunee

Toefl Team and especially with Ross Schilling and Kate Phillips, for your love and generosity.

Finally, these months of total immersion have been the most important in my life, not only because I passed the test but now I can graduate and had the life experience that I had. I traveled abroad, did new things as camping, walked in a snowing day, enjoyed the colors of the fall season, and spent time with very intelligent and nice people change me as a person. The US experience opened my mind and my world. I believe I can achieve all my dreams.



*Presidents Note for Sonia's Article: Locally, Kate Phillips, Jack Wagner, Lea Pellet, and Lynn Thompson have been involved with the TOEFL. This 3 month total immersion of English is a huge commitment by both the student and teacher. Congratulations to those involved in this great, worthwhile effort!*



*Kewaunee TOEFL Team, Left to Right: Jack Wagner, Kate Phillips and Lynn Thompson. On Skype screen, Lea Pellet.*

## Student Book-Deadline Extended!!!

Bob Garfinkel

With the change of the Recognition Day date to August, the deadline for student writings for our Student Book has been pushed back to June 1, 2015. The theme this year is "Where is Home?" A number of students have written on topics other than this theme. This is fine. The important objective is to have students write and see their work in print.

Student writing can be as short as 3-4 sentences, or many pages in length. Tutors may help students proofread their work. If your student has submitted writing and would like to turn in addition work, that is great!

Last year's student book was exceptional, with about 20 students participating. Students were proud of their work and enjoyed the *Thumbs Up! Trophy*. Writers this year will receive the *High Five Award*.

## Green Bay Packers Back Literacy Partners

Last December, the Green Bay Packers Foundation awarded \$600,000 to 223 Civic and Charitable groups throughout Wisconsin. Both the total donation amount and number of recipients are records for the foundation!

Recipients were guests of the Green Bay Packers Foundation, and were treated to a wonderful lunch. Pictured are Bob and Jerry, President and Board Member, after receiving the \$1,500 grant.



The Packers have been huge supporters of Literacy Partners since our inception eight years ago.

## Of This and That...

1. The "County Times" newspaper is in its fifth week running and entire Hispanic page (in Spanish) as part of the Community Section. So far, articles have been about cooking and household type. Future articles will feature holidays, cultural events, and community events. The entire paper can be found (free) online at [www.yourcountyyourpaper.com](http://www.yourcountyyourpaper.com) and in many stores county-wide for 25 cents (a donation to a monthly charity). Students and the community are urged to submit articles.

2. "Write On" is a Door County based organization that encourages and promotes the learning and appreciation of writing. On February 21st at 1 pm, at the Miller Art Museum (in the Sturgeon Bay Public Library), *Write On* will celebrate International Mother Language Day. The celebration will feature poetry read in a variety of languages. Call 920-868-1457 or email [info@writeondoorcounty.org](mailto:info@writeondoorcounty.org) to sign up to read or go and enjoy!

3. The "Clothing Closet" is once again open. Days and times of the Closet have been changed. Call the Kewaunee Superintendent's office for new days/hours (920-388-3230)

4. If you would be interested in getting Kewaunee County's Senior Scene, either call 920-388-00626 or email Jessica Purdy at [Purdy@Kewauneeco.org](mailto:Purdy@Kewauneeco.org). You can receive a free copy either online in your email or by regular mail.

5. The best way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs is to take them to the drop off sites at the Kewaunee County Safety Building (620 Juneau St, Kewaunee) or the Algoma Police Department (416 Fremont Street). Items that are accepted are pills, capsules, and tablets.

## Tutor Survey

The fall 2014 Tutor Survey results are in! Results were used in the planning of our annual calendar. Thank you to the 20 tutors who took the time to take the online or hard copy survey.

### Question 1: Has your student been promoted or attained a new job as result of our program?

39% Yes

61% No

*President's Comments: This is an incredible success story, with nearly 40% staying yes! Tutor comments were filled with student promotions, students getting new and first time employment, and successes on the job.*

### Question 2: Any additional comments, concerns, or suggestions to make our organization stronger?

Most mentioned was "We need a social event".

*President's Comments: If you are interested in a social event, please step forward and help plan it. Our Board of Directors is focused on our organization and are busing being on 1-3 active committees. Contact Bob if you want to plan something!*

### Question 3: Would you be interested in attending a get-together with other tutors to discuss common problems?

89% Yes

11% No

*President's Comments: We have tried this several times in the past and no one has come. We will require a RSVP. We have scheduled a "Sharing Session" at Hillcrest School (Resource Room) on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 am with lunch provided at noon. Bring your concerns and challenges as well as your most successful lessons.*

**RSVP BY February 23<sup>rd</sup> to Bob at 920-845-2516 or [Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com).**

### Question 4: Run/Walk Fundraiser-a possibility?

Many said they might or would help

*President's Comments: We looked at the number of run/walk events in our part of the state and the number was staggering throughout spring, summer and fall. We talked to those involved in such an event and they agreed that 30-50 volunteers would be needed for a small event. The spring is almost upon us. Perhaps we can do this at a later time. If anyone has an idea of an out of the box fundraiser, please let Bob or Anne know!*

### Question 5: What is the Number 1 thing Literacy Partners could do to help you be more effective?

Most tutors were unsure.

### Question 6: What would you like Ann Beeson to talk about in our Tutor Workshop?

*President's Comments: See the description in this newsletter about Ann's presentation. We used your comments to plan the program.*

**Has your student achieved any other type of personal accomplishments as a result of our program?**

63% Yes  
37% No

*President's Comments: Very impressive! Many heartwarming achievements were shared from getting US Citizenship and GED certification to being able to talk to people in the community. I don't know of a literacy organization that would not be proud of these numbers!*

## **Health Literacy Section of the Literacy Partners Website**

Anne Laurent

This article is just a reminder of a tremendous resource that you have available to you: A compilation of health resources in our area, state, and nationally—some pertaining to you, and some to your student.

About 2 years ago, our Health Literacy Committee, in conjunction with UW-Extension, Kewaunee County Public Health, and UW Family Medicine, created a section of our website dedicated to health resources.

The section of the website can be found by going to the Tutor Login (as if you were going to submit a tutor report) and clicking on the [Health Literacy](#) link.

In this section, you will find information on the Kewaunee County Health Department, Quick Care locations, hours, and services, Community Clinics, BadgerCare, WI Dept of Health Services, Free/Reduced Dental & Vision services, a link to the Kewaunee County Rx Card, and other various health literacy resources that we deemed important.

Most sections offer links, contact information and explanations. It is an exceptional resource that should be taken advantage of by yourself, as well as your student.

If you have any questions about the site, please don't hesitate to contact Bob or Anne. Our contact information is listed on the first page of each newsletter.

If you would like to see something added to this section, please suggest it.

## **Health Literacy – More on Upcoming Events**

Anne Laurent

As you may have seen in the 2015 Literacy Partners Calendar, the Health Literacy Committee has dates for other programs coming this year. Here are brief descriptions for the events listed:

**Health & Safety Night:** This event was talked about in detail in another article. The program will focus on 3 health and safety issues: fire, pharmaceutical & first aid. The program is open to tutors, students, and their families and friends. RSVP required. Interpreters will be present. Look for a sign up sheet to be coming via email.

**Health & Human Services Seminar:** A representative from the Health & Human Services Dept will be talking to tutors about programs, benefits and services offered to Kewaunee County residents. Light morning snacks will be provided. Mid-way through the program, we will also have guest speakers that will possibly pertain to you and even your student's needs, as well. Come and bring a friend along!

**Back to School Day:** This is an event that Literacy Partners has been a part of for the past 5 years. The program gears up low income families in our county for the upcoming school year. Literacy Partners has partnered with a variety of organizations to be able to provide dental education, dental supplies and a new pair of shoes for all children present. Volunteers for set up, as well as the event day will be needed.

**Healthy Eating Family Fun Night 2:** This is an extension of an event we held last year in conjunction with UW-Extension. Nutritionists from UW-Extension will educate families on different aspects of healthy eating & lifestyles. After a round-robin educational half hour, we will break into 4 groups and get into the kitchen to concoct some wonderful healthy food! We will end the night by enjoying the food we made!

**HEALTH LITERACY WEBSITE and PROGRAMMING made possible by donations from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Shopko Foundation, and United Funds of Kewaunee County, Inc.**

## 2015 Literacy Partners Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Place
Feb 27	Tutor Sharing Session*	11 am <i>session</i> 12 pm <i>lunch</i>	Hillcrest School
March 2	Tutor Orientation	9 – 10 am	Hillcrest School
March 9	Tutor Training Class #1	9 am – 12:30 pm	Hillcrest School
March 12	Tutor Training Class #2	9 am – 12:30 pm	Hillcrest School
March 16	Tutor Training Class #3	9 am – 12:30 pm	Hillcrest School
March 19	Tutor Training Class #4	9 am – 12:30 pm	Hillcrest School
March 23	Tutor Training Class <i>Snow Date</i>	9 am – 12:30 pm	Hillcrest School
March 26	Health & Safety Night	6 pm	LC Middle School Rm 103
April 16	Tutor Seminar-Speaker Ann Beeson	6 pm	LC Middle School Rm 103
May 6	Health & Human Services Seminar	9 am – 12 pm	TBD
TBD	Brat Fry	10 am – 5 pm	Festival Foods East
TBD	Back to School Event-Set Up	9 am – 12 pm	Hillcrest School
TBD	Back to School Event	10:45 am – 5 pm	Hillcrest School
August 1	Pig Roast Fundraiser	10:30 am – 2 pm	Kewaunee Marina
August 9	Recognition Day	11 am - ?	Bruemmer Park
September 24	Healthy Eating Family Fun Night 2	6 pm – 7:30 pm	LC Middle School Rm 103

**\*Tutor Sharing Session:** For the sharing session, we will discuss common concerns and problems that you may have. Also be prepared to discuss several strategies you have personally used in class in the past. If we have no response by the deadline, the sharing session will be automatically cancelled.

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