



From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

The move from Hillcrest School, Kewaunee, was major and intense. We had plenty of help and then it was time for fine-tuning or what I thought would be a minor tweak. The minor tweak proved to be a major endeavor. Faced with 4 boxes of student/tutor files, the task seemed endless to organize key information into three ring binders labeled, current tutors, current students, and terminated students and tutors. That job took longer than I thought because I became fascinated with the reports and started reading student biographies. This might not be seen as exciting reading to you, but to me, I was interested in the various paths former students took as a result of our program. Don't get me wrong, not all of our students and tutors succeeded. Life's trials often get in the way—health of the student or tutor (or family members), not able to handle the increasing stress of employment, or a dozen other factors. Sometimes the obstacles to teaching/learning had been overcome, and sometimes they weren't. The important thing in life is that we all continue to learn from our mistakes, don't dwell on our failures, and remember our successes. And yes, there have been a bunch of them!

THE STAR

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Bob Garfinkel, President
garfinkel.bob@gmail.com
920-676-2061

Anne Laurent, Coordinator
annielaurent@gmail.com
920-328-5552

My Favorite Tutoring Tips

Bob Garfinkel

Last summer my student and I needed a change, something to give us a shot of enthusiasm. His progress had leveled off and we were pretty much going through the motions. My student, being weak even in his original language, was having problems thinking and speaking English in complete sentences. I had the answer. Enter Sophie, my English Cocker Spaniel!



Sophie is a smart 2 year old that understands much of what I have to say. I'd go as far as saying she's the only one who really understands me! I "barked" out a number of commands while my student watched and listened. For example, "Sophie, I want you to sit. Sophie, get the ball. Sophie, drop the ball." And much more. My student and I were recharged and learning from that point increased dramatically.

I don't suggest you go out, buy a puppy, train it to do tricks, and then use it in class. What I am saying is, when teaching/learning stalls and enthusiasm is not there (on either side), think outside the box. Take the skills you are working on and incorporate them in a cooking lesson, a trip to the grocery store, or spend some time in our Resource Center to find another approach to what you are doing. Have fun!

Of This and That

1. Thank you to all of the donors from our Dinnerless Dinner. We had a great time not attending, while pushing us past our fundraising goal!
2. Thank you to the Augustine Stewardship Trust for generously making a grant donation to Literacy Partners
3. Thank you to St. John's Lutheran Church in Luxemburg. Literacy Partners was voted to receive funds from the Advent by Candlelight event in December.
4. Thank you to Karen Yancy, Casco Lions, Lorna Jaconi, ICS Cutting Tools, and the Nora Roberts Foudation for your generous donations over the past two months!
5. Thank you to Denny's SuperValue in Algoma for your latest donation. This is a result of customers dropping off their Denny's receipts in our slot at the store entrance.

All new donors will be added to our website shortly.

Move to Algoma

Bob Garfinkel

Sometimes, being impatient can be a good thing. Faced with moving 10 years of accumulated materials, supplies, etc....tutor and Board Member Sandy Ehren said, "Bob, it's time to move!" If you know Sandy, when she's determined, get out of her way! Sandy and Anne (our Coordinator) virtually packed up everything at Hillcrest and drove it over to our Algoma location in a truck and van.



Meanwhile, Dave and Justin Ehren, with myself as "supervisor", put together 3 book cases. With the help of 2 men and a truck (Dominion Employees), large furniture and equipment was delivered to our "center".



At this point, we knew we would be short on shelf space. Barb and George Baldwin came to the rescue and donated a large book case. Lastly, 45 cases of books had to be unpacked and put on the shelves. Tutors Joel, Marge, Mary G, Barb, Anne, Kate, Sue, Mary N, Mary W, Suzanne and Bob emptied the 45 boxes in less than 45



minutes! Thank you to all who helped and a big thanks to Pastor Cheryl and the trustees of the United Methodist Church for giving us a new home!

thank
you!

Literacy Partners would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the current Kewaunee School District Superintendent, Karen Trembl, and Kewaunee School District in general for their amazing support over the last 10 YEARS!



Open House a HUGE Success

Our Open House on January 27, 2016, a little more than a month after our move from Hillcrest School, hosted 24 guests to our new home in the United Methodist Church in Algoma. Several parishioners, Pastor Cheryl, and Michelle Baumann, Kewaunee School ELL instructor, also stopped in.

The majority of visitors stopped in from 2 – 4 pm with most staying about an hour. President Bob said, “It wasn’t hectic”. Tutors returned books and pick up new materials. We constantly had 8-10 guest in attendance. Most of us had not seen one another since last summer’s Recognition Day or longer. We were having such a great time socializing and eating snacks I forgot to take pictures! Marge and Joel Weichelt stopped in when things calmed down and were gracious enough to pose for a picture. When the weather

turned bad, attendance dropped off.



Pictured are tutors Marge & Joel Weichelt at our Open House event. Pictured *with* Marge & Joel is our new addition—two frogs reading on a bench given to us by Mary Novak. Thanks, Mary!

Our only entrance to the Church is on the parking lot side of the building. The Resource Center is open Monday through Friday when the Senior Lunch is being served from 10:30am – Noon. We must be out of the building at noon since the door will be locked. Office hours with a resource person available are Tuesdays 9 – 11:30 am and Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:00 pm from February 3rd to May 31, 2016. From June 1 – September 30, the center will only be open during the 10:30 – Noon time slot when lunch program is in operation. The complete Resource Center Policy can be e-mailed to you upon request (call or e-mail Bob) or you may stop at the “Center” and pick up a copy during open hours.

Resource Center Hours & Information

Winter Hours: Feb 3 – May 31

M-F 10:30 am – Noon (no resource person available)
Tutors and students must be out of the building before noon.

Resource person available:

Tuesdays: 9am – 11:30 am
Wednesdays 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

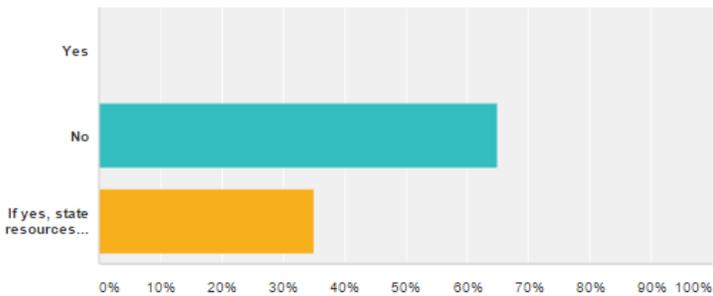
Closed the following dates: 2/9, 2/17, 2/24, 3/15

Tutor Survey for 2016 Results

Below are the questions that many of you answered last fall regarding the direction of our organization, what you would like, what you think might be done better, and what things will possibly occur in 2016. Thank you to all who took the short time to answer the survey. The results have already helped our Board of Directors plan some events for 2016!

Are there any new materials needed in our Resource Center?

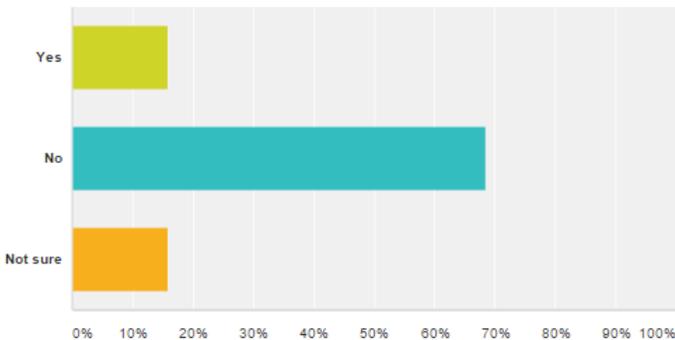
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



Presidential Comments: 65% of tutors commented that for now, our Resource Center meets our needs. We have an excellent area on conversation and writing. Of course, we will keep an eye out for new materials.

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

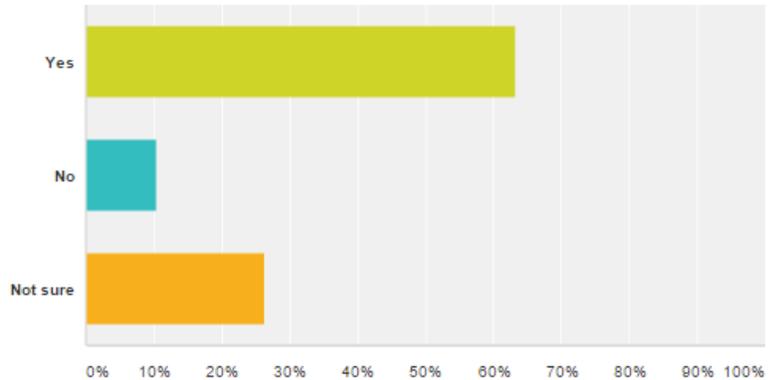
Answered: 19 Skipped: 1



Presidential Comments: Almost 16% commented that their student was promoted due to our program. Although this is lower than past surveys, 16% of tutors were not sure. I would probably not know if my student was given a promotion, either...

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

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1



Presidential Comments: 63% of tutors responded that their student achieved a personal accomplishment. This is HUGE!

In regards to future tutor workshops: What literacy workshops would you like to see offered? Answer can be a general or specific topic.

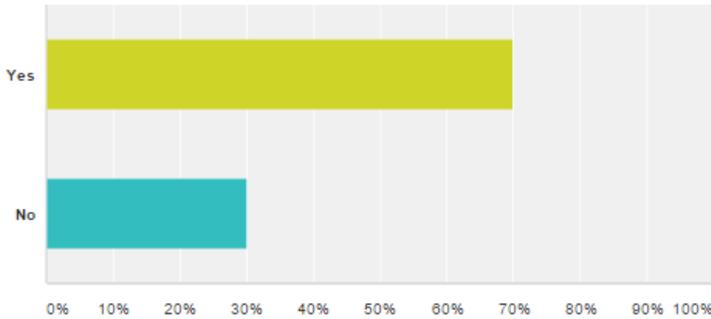
Presidential Comments: As far as tutor workshops, improving conversation skills and road blocks to learning were a close 1 & 2. Since we had a conversation workshop in 2014, the Tutor/Student Support group decided to look into road blocks to learning.

What would be the number one thing we could do to help you instruct your student more effectively?

Presidential Comments: Number 1 comment from tutors was to get to the Resource Center more often and hopefully work with a resource person to improve performance. A "well-seasoned" experienced tutor will be available Tuesday mornings and Wednesday later afternoon and early evening in the Resource Center to help you (see dates & times in another article).

Would you be interested in attending a workshop to learn more about your personality traits, and how to work with different personalities more effectively? (This type of workshop is used to help individuals recognize differences in approaching problems in daily life and tutoring situations, and how to work through them.)

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



Presidential Comments: 70% responded favorably to attend a workshop to learn more about your personality and how to work with others more effectively. Here's your chance. Sign up for the "Colors Workshop!" We need 10 pre-registered to make this happen (see article in this issue).

Colors Program for Tutors

Jill Jorgensen

Did you ever wonder why someone reacted the way that they did? Maybe you wondered what motivated someone? Have you ever wanted to understand how to best work in a team setting?

What if I told you that I could help you answer those questions and more? Everyone has a distinct temperament spectrum comprised of four colors: Blue, Gold, Orange and Green.

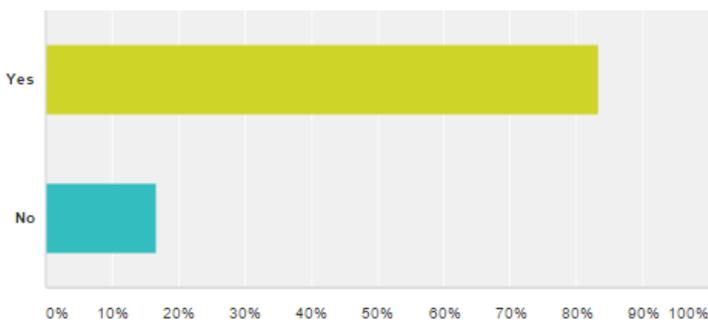
NCTI's exclusive Real Colors® Personality tool and workshop a fast, fun, interactive format where participants can learn how to quickly identify their own temperament or "color" and that of others. Knowing this information can help you understand your team, enhance your communication skills and build better relationships in all facets of your life.

In the Real Colors® fundamentals workshop, participants will learn to:

- identify their own—and other people's—Real Colors and personal strengths
- understand the different ways people process information
- communicate with others in the most effective way possible—including hearing what they're really saying
- recognize and appreciate the strengths and viewpoints of others
- apply Real Colors principles in all areas of their lives

In regards to question 6, would you pay \$5 to attend a personality workshop?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 2



Presidential Comments: 83% respondents said they'd pay \$5.00 for the cost of the Colors Program (for materials from our presenter).

***I hope that you see that our Board of Directors takes your comments seriously on our surveys and responds to your suggestions. With your help, we will continue to grow and move forward.*



Real Colors® Program Information

Date: March 31, 2016

Time: 10:00 am

Where: Kewaunee County Board Room-
Kewaunee Administration Center (810
Lincoln St., Kewaunee)

Cost: \$5.00 to pay part of costs. Payable
at the event.

Deadline for sign up: March 17th.

**If we don't have 10 attendees at that time it will
be cancelled. Materials must be ordered at that
time. Contact Bob if interested.**

(garfinkel.bob@gmail.com or [920-676-2061](tel:920-676-2061))

Endorsements: *HCE was contacted after their
event. They had 16 in attendance and enjoyed it
very much.*

Student Success

Friend from Facebook

Bob Garfinkel

Last December, I had a request to be a friend on Facebook from Nelson Chavez. This name was familiar. Looking back in our files, I found his name and everything fell into place.

About 7 years ago, Nelson was a student of ours while working on a Kewaunee County farm. After about 2 years of instruction, his tutor terminated and I took him on as my student. During one of our first sessions (we met at the ball park in Casco) I noticed that Nelson's eyes were watering while he was reading. Thinking this might be a sign of eye fatigue, I talked to the folks at Lens Crafters and they agreed to give Nelson a free eye exam, which led to donated glasses.

Nelson and I have corresponded several times in the last 2 months. Today, Nelson is a successful teacher in Honduras, has 22 students, and is anxiously awaiting the completion of their new school.



Our influence goes well beyond the borders of Kewaunee County. Think about the dozens of former students who have returned home, plus the students we instruct on SKYPE in China and Mexico. Our impact is far greater than what you'd expect.

New GED Graduate

Kate Phillips, Tutor & Board Member

I am very pleased that Pam finished the last step, the exit interview at NWTC Green Bay to receive her GED (high school equivalency) on December 23, 2015. Pam worked so hard on her assignments and persisted even after the birth of her baby Ronnie last February. She continually received complements from the GED Coordinator on how complete and insightful her assignments were. Congratulations, Pam! It's been a pleasure working with you!



LEFT: Pam and her certificate

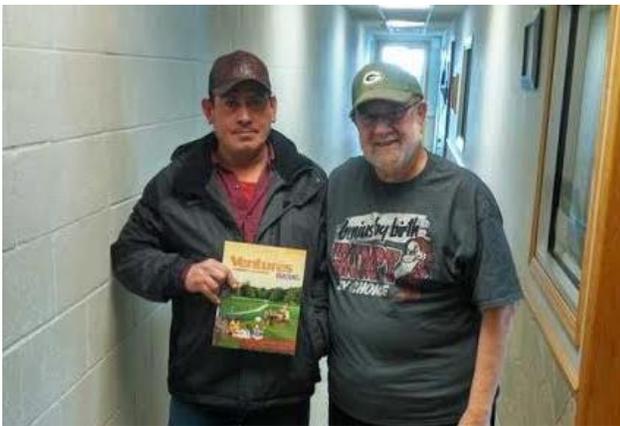
BELOW: Pam and her new baby, Ronnie!

President's Note: I knew that Pam would get her GED the first time we met. She was one of the most determined students we've ever had. This is only the beginning for Pam. She would like to go back to school and enroll in the School of Business. She would also like to take tutor training and help another student succeed. Congratulations Pam & Kate. You have been a great team!

Dairy Dreams Class



Pictured above is Sister Mary Anne Albert and her Dairy Dreams students upon finishing Ventures II.



Pictured above is Bob Garfinkel & his Dairy Dreams student Jose upon completion of Laubach I.

Featuring our students and tutors upon completion of a text book is new. If any tutor and student who completed a text in 2015 would like to be in our newsletter, email a picture to me and we'll include it in our next edition (send picture to garfinkel.bob@gmail.com).

Students work Hard to Help Others

Marge Weichelt

In December 2015, my East Shore ladies read aloud to Mrs. Cisler's kindergarten class at Kewaunee Grade School.

The ladies had a great time and did a wonderful job. We spent several weeks preparing for it. I especially appreciated Linda for taking time to drive the van and read with us.

Here are some more pictures of the ladies reading aloud to the kids. What a great experience for all involved!



Student Book 3 – “My Family”

Our students have written outstanding stories that were handed out at the last two Recognition Day events. I thought the first book was excellent. Last year’s book, “Where is Home?” almost blew my mind! The Luxemburg – Casco High School bound the book of stories and it was very attractive.

This year’s title will be, “My Family.” As in the past, students may also write about any topic and we will have a separate section for miscellaneous topic writing. There is no limit as far as length of a story. Last year, some beginning students wrote four sentences, while others wrote one to four pages. The deadline for all stories is July 1, 2016. Tutors may help proofread stories and assist when needed. Stories may be mailed to Bob at his home address, PO Box 203, Luxemburg, WI 54217 or emailed to Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com. Illustrations are great, but must be e-mailed.

Tutors, this is a great learning experience for our students no matter what level they are at. Students enjoy seeing their writing in print and reading other students’ stories. Let’s get behind this program and make this book our best ever!



Welcome, New Tutors!

Barb Baldwin and Nancy Lamack trained 7 new tutors this past fall. Welcome to the Literacy Partners family!



Left to Right (back row): Jennifer Wilcox, Joel Weichelt.
(Front row): Victoria Krentz, Mary Woods, Joanne Lazansky, Angelica Fiscal

Below: New tutor Jim Moss



Health Literacy 2016

Anne Laurent

The recent snowstorm put a stop to the Health Literacy (HL) Committee’s meeting where dates could be set for all of the upcoming fun events that will occur in 2016. Though, being on the committee myself, I can tell you that there is a lot to look forward to!



As in the past 5 years, the HL Committee will take part in the *Back to School* event for Kewaunee County. This is the event that provides school supplies for children in families that need financial assistance. Literacy Partners joined this

event 5 years ago. In those 5 years, Literacy Partners has been able to give out over 700 pair of shoes, 235 winter coats, and dental supplies to



over 2000 participants (new toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, timers and information on free/reduced cost dental care in our area).

This is a fantastic event to volunteer for—you will get a great feeling helping others, and have a ton of fun with the children, as well as meeting other tutors in the process. More information will come out about the event in summer.

The HL Committee will also hold another *Health Eating Family Fun Night*. To date, we have held 2 of these events, both being huge successes. The first one was focused on healthy meals, while the second was focused more on healthy snacks. Who knows what this year will bring—but whatever it is, I know you, your student and their children will have a great time attending!

Last, but definitely not least, the HL Committee is looking into providing a First Aid type event, where participants may get hands on training with a mannequin (to learn what to do if someone is choking), as well as learn more about cuts & bruises, poison possibilities in the home, and more. It will be focused on families and will be a great educational event. The program is slated for mid-April. More will come out in email form when we get close to the event and details are finalized.

Fundraising 2016

Anne Laurent

With every non-profit comes fundraising. It is a fact of life these days. I'd like to think that our group doesn't overwhelm its members with the hassles of fundraising. Nobody here has the energy to sell pizzas and popcorn, or has the time to go door to door. Everyone's children and grandchildren are selling things multiple times throughout the year for school and sports organizations, as well.

For this reason, we try to rely solely on grants, donations from our yearly *Dinnerless Dinner*, and 2 fundraisers a year in the form of a brat fry at Festival Foods East in Green Bay, and a joint Pig Roast Fundraiser with Kewaunee County HCE each year at the end of July.

When we get dates, we will add them to the calendar on our website. We will also put them in the May newsletter. The brat fry is usually in June, and the pig roast the end of July. Keep it in mind and come out to see us! Both events are fun to work and even more fun to attend!



A special "Thank You" to all of our officers, Board of Directors members, advisors, and supporters. Without your hard work, dedication and generosity, Literacy Partners would not be the successful organization that it is today. We appreciate all of you very much!

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