



# TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC. NEWS

## February 2014

### Changing our World by Educating Kids

### Our hope is to see our Kids Moving Forward



*Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process by responding to school requests for direct classroom tutoring in reading, math, writing, and science as well as family support and activities that enhance the educational environment leading to scholastic achievement.*

**School Captains Update** – We have 14 tutors who have volunteered to be captains at our schools. Most school need two captains so we are still looking for two or three more to complete the captains’ positions. The following schools have one captain but still need another co-captain: Stanton Weirsdale, and Wildwood (has one but needs two more due to the large number of tutors at Wildwood).

The reason for two captains at a school is to maintain a close contact with the tutors and teachers. With at least two captains the position will not need a large amount of time.

**Marion County Book Bowl** – Under the direction of Terry Robinson, Media Director at Belleview Santos, each year Marion County conducts a reading challenge to all schools in the County. Teams from grades 3-5, as well as middle schools and high schools participate in a County-wide reading contest. The elementary schools have their own final ‘book bowl’ contest where the 12 school teams who progressed to the finals are quizzed in detail on the contents of the 15 books they read.

The finals are a ‘round robin’ elimination process until one team is left standing. They are declared the winners.

One of our tutors, Constance Cordingley has volunteered to be a judge at the finals competition.

Each year, if one of the six schools where we tutor wins, Tutors for Kids offers a prize to the winning team. Thanks to the generosity of several tutors, this year, each member of the winning team (if from one of our schools) will receive their own portable DVD movie player.

**Tutors in the Villages** will hold their next meeting of Tutors for Kids in the Villages on Wednesday March 5 at 3 p.m. at Sterling Heights Rec Center. Guest speakers for this meeting are Superintendent of Schools, Richard A. Shirley and Haydn Evans of the School Board in District One the Villages. After the talk there will be ample time for questions and discussion. All Villagers are encouraged to attend.

**New Tutors**– February brought us five new tutors who found out about our program thanks to many of you talking about your experiences. Again thank you for all that you do.

**Tutor Helpful Hints** – Several of you have asked us to helpful hints in this newsletter about how to be most effective when working with our students. So, we will include hints - we encourage you to send in things that have worked well for you.

- In the ‘chic chat’ at the beginning of you session see if your student is coming to class every day, is doing homework, is passing tests, etc. (some are absent often)
- Try to find out what subject the student likes.
- Always ensure that you do (or ask) comprehension questions after reading some paragraphs. This is essential to get them accustomed to answering questions. Often this is their biggest problem leading to ‘no confidence’.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat especially at lower grades. Have the student: say the word, spell the word, say it again; or do the math problem and several similar to it.

Send us any hints that you think will be helpful

**Book Program** – We are writing grant requests for books. By mid-March we should have received 2,000 books and, we hope, more coming in April. Pickup for distribution to your whole class at the end of the year will start in mid-April with distribution by mid-to-end-May.

Instruction for pickup will be sent out later and coordinated by your school captains.

Don’t forget - “books for your bag.” Bring a few books with you as rewards for those students make good progress.

**School Break and Tests** - Spring Break is different for each County:

- Sumter: March 10 – 14
- Lake: March 24 thru 31
- Marion: March 24 - 28

Ask your teacher frequently if there are any test days or special work days coming up. Don’t make an unnecessary trip if your school is on “lockdown.”

**Mentoring Wildwood** – The mentoring program is moving along at Wildwood Elementary. If interested let Char Griffin know EMAIL: [char\\_griffin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:char_griffin@sbcglobal.net)

### Tutors for Kids

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