



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC. NEWS

February 2015

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.

New Tutor Applicants – Starting on February 18, any new tutors asking to join our program will be asked to participate for the fall. Time is running short to process applications, get approvals, and assign new applicants.

Middle School – We are still planning to approach a middle school for next year. Watch for an announcement later. Again, if this interests you, let us know.

Strategic Planning - Our Board of Directors wants us to develop a strategic plan for the future. Several have volunteered. More expertise is always needed, so please join us in an email. Our first meeting should be in mid-March.

S.T.E.M. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is now operating as an after-school program at Wildwood Elementary. Students are involved in a series of projects that require teamwork, analysis, planning, testing, documenting, and reporting results.

The project is run by Jerry Lipham, science teacher. Each session follows a pattern that has been used in different workshops. The first project was to take 20 strands of spaghetti, 12 inches of tape and string and build a high tower that could stand on its own and support a marshmallow at its top. Success!!!

The Book Program – We have been notified that we will soon be receiving 2,500 books for our end of the year distribution. AND, don't forget books for your bag. At this point, try to increase the number of books you give to students you tutor. They should read as much as possible.

Meetings with the School Principals - In the next two months we will be meeting with the principals at our schools to evaluate our program during the current year and to plan for next year. If you have any suggestions drop us an email and we will include them in our meetings.

Villager Club Meeting - The club meeting for Village residents on Wednesday, March 5, at 3 p.m. at the Sterling Heights Recreation Center, has as featured speakers - Jean Holstein, Director of Student Services and Testing and Nicole Wade, Elementary Curriculum Specialist, both from Sumter County.

Nicole will discuss the old standards vs. the new standards, then show practice test items from the old

FCAT and the new FSA test. At the end Jean will hand out testing calendars. Questions from the floor are encouraged. Their presentation will go beyond Wildwood Elementary and discuss the new testing format used in all schools.

Again we'd like to fill the room with people from all schools. Mark your calendar: John Temple, the principal of Wildwood Elementary, is our guest for April 1 meeting.

Tips for Tutoring – As we learn more about Florida's "common core curriculum," three tutoring tips come to mind. **First**, reading is more important than ever since each subject requires competency. **Second**, thorough thinking on what is being asked/discussed. **Third**, figuring out a way to arrive at the answer. Remember YOUTUBE and TED websites are excellent sources for education articles and videos.

A Club in Stonecrest and DelWebb??? - During the past two years, Tutors for Kids volunteers established an official "club" in the Villages. Most communities require a group to be a "club" in order to use the meeting facilities in the community. Then we can run workshops and have speakers in each community. **SO**, we need volunteer(s) to step up as club organizers. We can provide the 'know-how' but we need to 'know who' is interested and dedicated to organize and lead the club.

Donations – From late mid-January to mid-February, generous current and former tutors as well as friends donated \$474 for our book program to share our excitement of the children receiving books. Thank you for shopping at Amazon Smile. Yes, it paid off, we received a small amount for our book program. Keep shopping!!

Amazon Smile Foundation – If you buy products from Amazon, Tutors for Kids can benefit when you purchase certain products. We will receive a small amount if you access Amazon through this link below.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4815598>

Tutors for Kids

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