



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC. NEWS

March 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.

Village Club Meeting – April 1, 3:00 - Guest: John Temple, Principal, at Wildwood Elementary

The club meeting for Village residents on Wednesday, April 1 at the Sterling Heights Recreation Center, has as a featured speaker. John will discuss a variety of topics involving students at Wildwood and his plans for improving the learning process at the school.

Remember we have 103 Tutors at this school. Again we'd like to fill the room with people from all schools.

End-of-the-Year Books – Yes, the end of the school year is close. Plan now for our final book distribution. We have a new supply of books. Since we have 275 tutors, we need some guidance and times.

Book guidance – Some teachers have more than one tutor - some up to five. We do not have enough books for each tutor to give a book to each student. Your captains will contact you over the next few weeks with the name of tutor who will pick up books for these classes. If you are not contacted, you are the only tutor in your class and are the automatic delegate to get books

Days and Times for Book Pick-up

Wildwood

Tuesday, April 14, 9 – 12 Wednesday, April 15, 2-6

Belleview, Harbour View, Stanton Weirsdale, Belleview Santos, Marion Oaks, Legacy:

Thursday, April 16, 3 - 6; Friday, April 17, 9 -12;
Saturday, April 18, 9 – 12; Tuesday, April 21, 3 - 6

Fruitland Park, Villages at Lady Lake:

Wednesday, April 22, 3 – 6; Thursday, April 23, 9 -12;
Friday, April 24, 1 - 3;

Wildwood

Sunday, April 26, 9 -12; Monday, April 27, 1- 6;
Tuesday, April 28, 3- 6; Friday, May 1, 1-3.

If you miss your day, the **FINAL DAY** is Tuesday, May 5, 3-6 PM. If you need to make special arrangements for pickup, call Frank and Carolyn at 352-245-9709.

Tutor Recruitment for August/September – If you know a neighbor or friend who is interested in tutoring,

send us an email with contact info, and we will take it from there. We are increasing the number of our schools and will need many more volunteers. If they just want to help out at the schools but not tutor let us know as well. All help is valued and appreciated.

Tutors Returning to Wildwood – Each year we must go through the long approval process. We have applications for next year. If you are planning to return to Wildwood or would like to start tutoring at Wildwood, we want your completed application BEFORE the close of school. We will send you an app with instructions.

Middle School – As announced last month, we are still planning to talk to a middle school for next year. Watch for a future announcement. If this interests you, let us know.

Strategic Planning - Our strategic planning committee will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, March 24.

Meetings with the School Principals - We have started meeting with the principals to evaluate the current year and plan for next year.

Tips for Tutoring – See Page two of the newsletter.

A Club in Stonecrest and DelWebb??? – Two people expressed interest in a Tutors for Kids Club in these communities. If you can help, please let us know.

Donations – Since our last newsletter, we have received \$655 for our book program – in honor of Sol and Marilyn Burak, in memory of Natalie Smith, from a tutor, and from several books clubs.

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

Frank Russo or Carolyn Ruhe - 352-245-9709

Website: www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

Email: tutorsforkids@att.net

Articles:

"Why do Americans Stink at Math?"

This was the title of an article published in the *New York Times Magazine* on July 23, 2014, by Elizabeth Green

Essentially she talks about the way we teach math today versus what needs to be done to improve our ranking internationally. "Even in Massachusetts, one of the Country's highest-performing states, math students are more than two years behind their counterparts in Shanghai."

Reforms have been attempted in the past; namely, the 60's math (remember the panic over Sputnik). And the new math of the 80's, and today's Common Core, or one of the many State off-shoots (for example Florida Standards).

All have the same flaw according to Green - they use the methodology called "**I, WE, YOU.**" "Today **I** am going to show you..." then "**WE**" are going to do some sample problems together" then "**YOU**" are going to do the exercise on the worksheets which will be passed out"

Green and other educators are trying to change the method to something like "**YOU, Y'ALL, and WE.**" One big problem of the day is presented, designed to let students explore on their own (**YOU**) then in groups (**YOU'ALL**) then as the whole class (**WE**). Students are involved from the start, (**YOU thinking**); the discussions phase (**Y'ALL**) follows and can be a little loud as everybody has an opinion; then the wrap-up comes when the whole class puts it together (**WE**). .

Students are engaged from the start; not just sitting there passively listening or worst still dreaming/sleeping.

Links to Web Sites:

Florida Standards Assessment (replacing FCAT):

Use the following links to get to new 2015 Florida Standards educational site: Look around it can be a little confusing.

<http://www.flstandards.org/>

(To get to the link hold down the CTL key and click on the link with the mouse). Select Teachers. Check out what is being taught in each grade. Also check out the math videos. (Note English Language Arts is not ready yet).

Learning Farm - Florida has adopted the Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS) and Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS). The Florida Standards Assessments will be used in schools during the 2014-2015 school year.

This is the link to their site: (To get to the link hold down the CTL key and click on the link with the mouse).

<http://www.learningfarm.com>

Select 'product tour'. Select Florida as the State, Select "quick test drive". Select Second Grade reading exercise.

This is a sample of a language arts exercise.

Asking and Answering Questions

"When you read, ask yourself questions about the text. It helps to understand the topic ..."

These are some of the questions you can ask yourself while reading a passage:

1. What is the author mainly trying to tell the reader?
2. Which detail shows how something is done?
3. How can the reader tell (an idea) is important?
4. Who is the passage about?
5. Where does something happen?

Here is a brief sample second grade exercise.

Clouds look like they are light, but they are very heavy! Clouds are made of water or ice. The drops of water or pieces of ice are really tiny. They are so small that they can float in the air!

The clouds get bigger when water drops stick together and make bigger drops. The drops get heavy. Then, the water drops fall and make rain.

Most clouds are white. Clouds that are thick and full of rain look dark or gray. The light above the clouds cannot get through the clouds. When the winds push the clouds, and they move.

Question: Why do some clouds look dark or gray?

- A. They look light but are very heavy
- B. The clouds can float in the air
- C. The drops of water are really tiny.
- D. They are thick and full of rain

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Go on to check out each grade in language arts and math. This will give you a good idea of how to help your students navigate a new way of doing things.

Also note in some multiple choice questions the student may be asked for multiple possibilities. For example A. and B., C. and D, or All of the above.