



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process.

March 2017 Newsletter

Excited Children Eager to Learn

Our Children – Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow



Our Mission: Meeting student educational needs as defined by the teacher through suitable and trained volunteer tutors in the local, tri-county Title 1 public schools as determined by the Board of Directors.

Update on Books in the Schools – More Good News – seven schools now have your books at your school in storage: Villages, Leesburg, Fruitland Park, Beverly Shores, Belleview Santos, Wildwood Elementary, and Wildwood Middle (these middle school books are stored in the elementary school). Each has a sufficient quantity and variety to fill your “books” needs for the remainder of the year.

Book Pick Up - Starting April 1, if you are a tutor at one of the above schools, you will pick up books for the ‘bag’ and for the ‘break’ at your school. Your School Book Coordinators (SBCs) will advise you of the days and times the book area is open (watch your email). Each school needs additional volunteers to staff the ‘book room’ when it is open. To help, contact your SBC. Check the “link” in the email of this newsletter for the contact information at each school.

Book Pick Up at Carolyn’s and Frank’s Home - Only the these schools will need to get books at our home: **Belleview, Harbour View, Stanton Weirsdale, Marion Oaks, and Legacy.** (You can come on any day below). The dates are:

Monday	April 24	2 – 4 PM
Thursday	April 27 ^t	2 – 4 PM
Monday	May 1	2 – 4 PM
Thursday	May 4	3 – 5 PM
Monday	May 8	2 – 4 PM (This is the last day)

All others schools will go to their school for book pick up.

Tutors for Kids Club Meetings

Looking forward, we are happy to announce upcoming meeting:

Villagers - on April 5, please join us at **Sterling Heights Rec Center** – from **3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Two principals will be presenting a picture of what is happening at their schools. Heather Guest at Harbour View Elementary and Heather Gelb at Leesburg Elementary will be talking about three important aspects of elementary education:

- 1) The status of these school.
- 2) The needs of these school.
- 3) Testing as it relates to all elementary schools in our area.

Questions and breakouts will be encouraged for each of these topics.

Please attend this meeting. **We need a large turnout.** Please bring any questions you may have. We expect a lively discussion.

The **Belleview Library** location for club meetings will be cancelled for the remainder of the year. Sorry! We are attempting to schedule another day and time going into the next year (away from Monday holidays – which caused us to cancel the last three meetings).

Partnering with Public Allies – Ava Ortiz has joined Tutors for Kids as our intern from Public Allies. She is the “real deal” – so please respond to calls or emails – as you would from your STCs, etc.

Fall Social and Awards Program – Many tutors have asked if Tutors for Kids will ever have a social. The answer is YES. We would

like to recognize our donors and long serving tutors who have been very generous year after year with their financial support and time.

So, the answer is “**YES**,”! We need **HELP** in organizing such an event. If you’d like to have some fun, then this project is for you. Gatherings of this type usually take 8 – 10 volunteers. So if you or friends like to plan socials, we need your help. After all, we do need to have fun along with our tutoring. **The tentative date is early December 2017.**

During the Summer – Yes, after school closes, learning still continues. Most of the counties offer summer school for four to six weeks. So, IF you would like to continue the great work you are doing with your students, feel free to volunteer. What we know now is that Beverly Shores (in Leesburg) will be one location.

Board of Directors – Our Board of Directors is building the structure to insure that Tutors for Kids will be around for a long time. The Board manages seven different sub-committees. Our Tutors for Kids program with 425 tutors in 12 schools serving 2,000 students per week needs a strong management structure.

You can HELP! You do not have to tutor. Many people you know may have skills that could be used to support our program. We need Board members, trainers for new tutors, and interviewers for new tutor applicants, public speakers, help in grant writing, and technology help - especially for updating our website and Facebook connection (we have two volunteers for website/Facebook but could use at least two more).

Supporting our Supporters

Jesus Christ Superstar – KC Productions has announced: Jesus Christ Superstar will be held at the Savannah Center April 10 – 13, 2017 from 4 – 7 p.m., featuring our Tutors for Kids webmaster and database developer, Tim Casey. Tickets and information at:

www.superstarvillages.com

Donations – Since the January newsletter, Tutors for Kids received over \$348.60 in donations from individuals and organizations. Thank you!!!

Supporting Tutors for Kids

Amazon Smile Foundation – If you buy from Amazon, Tutors for Kids benefits as you purchase. We get a small amount when you access Amazon through this link below.

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

Bulletin Board – School Help Wanted

These schools need School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) and School Book Coordinators (SBCs).

Belleview Santos - Two School Book Coordinators.

Beverly Shores - Two School Book Coordinators

Fruitland Park – Two School Tutor Coordinator

Wildwood – One School Tutor Coordinator for Grade 2
Villages – Two School Book Coordinators

(See link in email accompanying this newsletter for STC contact info.)

School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) - What do they do?: We are in need of STCs at several schools. (see above-Bulletin Board). STCs are a vital part of Tutors for Kids. . .What do they do?

- 1) Ensure that new tutor applicants complete their county's volunteer application (track the date submitted).
- 2) Solicit the new tutor's availability of day(s), time(s), grade(s), and subject(s) & enter into database.
- 3) Follow up with the school to determine the tutors' approvals which can be tracked in the database.
- 4) Answer any questions about the school from the new tutor applicant.
- 5) If needed and requested, arrange for a new tutor to "shadow" an existing, experienced tutor.
- 6) Receive requests from teachers with specific day(s), time(s), subject(s) for tutoring help & enter into database.
- 7) Provide School Book Coordinators with information on tutors.

Initial time commitment is about 2-3 hours per week at the beginning of the school year (August through October). The rest of the school year is approximately one hour per week. June and July are 'quiet times'. There may be two meetings per year for STCs, after the initial training.

School Book Coordinators (SBCs) - What do they do?: We are also in need of SBCs at several of the schools. They are a vital part of having books at your schools . . . What do they do?

- 1) Work with the school to get a secure & safe place to store books.
- 2) Stock storage space with adequate number of books to accommodate the number of tutors & students in the school.
- 3) Arrange for volunteers to "open" book room at designated times for tutors to obtain & sign out books.
- 4) Communicate with tutors about availability of books.
- 5) Oversee inventory and reorder books when needed
- 6) Work with computerized inventory (when available) to track receipts, disbursements, and reordering books.
- 7) Attend meetings occasionally.
- 8) Provide feedback to TfK.

Initial time commitment is (as above in the SBC description) about 2 hours per week at the beginning of the school year (August through October). The rest of the school year is approximately 1 hour per week. June and July are 'quiet times'. There may be two meetings per year for SBCs, after the initial database training.

Helpful Tutoring Tips

Many folks ask how I get my students to "earn" a book each month. Here are some suggestions for your toolbox:

Awarding stickers for:

- Accomplishments, achievements, or tutoring sessions well done.
- Homework, attendance, and/or class participation.
- Reading and telling you about the book they "earned."

Articles of Interest

Here is another YouTube video about changes needed for our whole education system. Our present system was designed in the late 1800s when the workforce moved from agricultural jobs to factory jobs. Our system has been tinkered with over many decades but still fails to deal with the implications of technology and the whole digital world in which our current students will live and work. Position your cursor on the link and hold the ctrl key down and press enter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rvhb9aoyeZs>

An Inspiring Tutor in Our Midst !

One of our tutors, Mr. Eugene Wells, received the Senior Volunteer of the Year Award from Leesburg Elementary School this year. He has made a tremendous impact on the "Boys to Men" Academy class for male students "at risk." His unusual way of encouraging the students brought very positive results and accomplishments from them. His method included both standard instruction and character education, which combined to set them on the path to being positive leaders.

Mr. Wells began his tutoring by teaching these students how to play chess. This is hardly what most tutors would do to help improve students' skills. But Mr. Wells was definitely thinking ahead, possibly because of his love of chess. Chess is a game where every move must be thought out ahead of time to advance the game and he encouraged them to use much of the same "thinking ahead" in math. He wanted improvement. It came in January in their I-Ready math data. Scores jumped thanks to their work with Mr. Wells.

Because of Mr. Wells' creativeness, engaging attitude, and respectfulness, much of his attitude has rubbed off on these young men. They are eager to learn and look forward to working with him and other students. This award is definitely in the right hands. His effectiveness and respect for these students has brought them to a new consciousness that will help them as they go forward in life. We applaud Mr. Wells for his success in working with the total student.

A Second Inspiring Tutor in Our Midst !

One of our STCs at Beverly Shores, Loyola Garcia, has just been named Senior Volunteer of the year. Loyola has spent many hours each week tutoring students and also working with tutors in Grades 3 – 5. She helps tutors get their application approved at the County, assigns them to teachers, and follows up to make sure things are running smoothly.

In addition, Loyola is an active member of our Board of Directors as well as developing and running the monthly club meeting for the Villages and Belleview Tutors for Kids club meeting.

THANK YOU LOY!

Tutors for Kids

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2016 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter from:



United Way
of Lake & Sumter Counties

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