



# TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

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

June 2017 Newsletter

Excited Children Eager to Learn

Our Children – Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow



**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.**

**In Memoriam** – We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Wildwood Middle School tutor, Tom Johnson, on June 24. Tom had recently started tutoring algebra. We send condolences to Tom’s family and thanks for the time and expertise he shared with his middle school students.

**Please Note!** There have been several changes and new additions for STCs at various schools. The Link to the STC contact info is contained in the email that accompanies this newsletter.

**Updated Tutor Tracking Database** – STCs, we have heard your concerns and suggestions about our Tutor Tracking Database. By the beginning of August, you will receive a new screen-by-screen manual documenting our database processes. You will also receive a complete list and sample of all the reports available in the Tutor Database.

**Books given out this Year for the Bag and Break** – Your School Book Coordinators (SBCs) have reported books that you have distributed to our students. We are happy to tell you that from January – May 2017, your students have received almost 9,000 books (for the break and your bag). These numbers have been compiled and reported between your SBCs and our intern for Public Allies – Ava Ortiz.

We will also schedule several training dates for STCs in August. Some dates for new – some dates for current/continuing STCs.

**Training Dates for the coming year** - Tutors for Kids announces the initial training dates for the 2017 – 2018 school year: Training will be held in the Belvedere Library (a Sumter County Library, right off Rt. 466 in the Villages). All NEW tutors must attend one training session before they can be assigned to a teacher. All returning tutors are welcome to attend one of these sessions for a refresher. This refresher is optional for returning tutors. So, mark your calendar – more details later:

**New Book Database** – You may remember that in 2016 we gave over 17,000 new books to your students. This year we are on track to repeat this number. And this year at least seven schools will be ordering books to be stores in your school. Each school has a budget and will keep an inventory on hand for all grades and for each distribution: Books for your Bag and Books for the Break.

- Thursday, August 10 – 1:00 – 5:00
- Friday, August 18 – 9:00 – 1:00
- Thursday, September 14 – 1:00 – 5:00
- Friday, September 22 – 9:00 – 1:00
- Thursday, October 12 - 1:00 – 5:00
- Friday, October 20 - 9:00 – 1:00
- Thursday, November 19 - 1:00 – 5:00
- Thursday, December 14 – 1:00 – 5:00

Thank you, Tim Casey, our database developer, we are scheduled to have a new Book Tracking Database ready for the coming school year – with input from Shirley Potts, Carl Bell, Mary Gahles, and school book coordinators. The Book Tracking Database will be documented in a screen-by-screen manual with explanation of each step in the process. There will be several training dates for SBCs in August or September. Look for dates and places in the July newsletter, is “in the works.”

**Training Manual Review** – Each year we review our Tutor Training manual. If you have any suggestions to help us improve our training please email them to us ASAP. We start the re-write on July 6.

**‘HELP, HELP’ in Carolyn and Frank’s Garage** – Yes, we still have books in the garage (for those few schools without storage space). AND, the boxes and books need to be organized and inventoried. Yes, it is warm in our garage – so we suggest an early morning “book party.” IF you can help, here are some dates that we need help – please let us know if you can join us (plenty of cold water and snacks):

**Returning Tutors** – If you are returning to the same school with the same teacher, be sure you touch base with your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) with your plans. Note for Fruitland Park Elementary there are new STCs: Nancy Angelini and Frank Russo (interim). NOTE: Terry Robinson and Jonnie King are not available - do not contact them.

- Monday, July 24 – 8:00
- Friday, June 28 – 8:00
- Thursday, July 27 – 8:00

If you are returning, but want to change your grade or teacher, please let your STC know of your new choice.

**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 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! 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).

**Next Year has Begun** – What should you expect during the school year of 2017 – 2018. Here are some plans in the works:

1. Increase the number of tutors in our schools especially the schools that need more help for their State tests.
2. A new Book Database to help us track our book distribution and our new ordering system.
3. More outreach to parents of students at each school's special events for families. We will be there with books and tips for helping students read.
4. A new Club meeting place for Tutors for Kids. To replace the two monthly meetings, we now have ONE club meeting for ALL tutors - thanks to St Timothy's Catholic Church on SR 27 – 441 near the Villages Hospital. The meeting is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month starting at 3:00. Details coming.
5. A new training site for new tutors or current tutors looking to refresh their skills. The training sessions will be held at the Belvedere Library.

### Tutors for Kids Club Meetings

**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.**

**Chess Tutors** – Jim Sikora has started an after-school chess club at Wildwood Elementary and wants to expand to Beverly Shores Elementary. All you need is a knowledge of chess to help. You do not have to be a chess expert, as he is teaching chess basics. A rudimentary understanding of the game is necessary, and you can learn as you go. Call or email Jim: 352-350-2628 - jjdisi@comcast.net

**Science in the Fall** – At Fruitland Park Elementary School, Randy Horn has organized a hands-on science program for all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders – and would like your help in the fall. He gives students a science problem to solve – collaboratively – and to explain and discuss their solution. It sounds like so much fun. IF you can help (or know of someone), contact Randy directly: 256-577-3748 - rkhorn@una.edu

### Supporting our Supporters

**Thank you** to all who came to the various events that many of our generous donors sponsored during the past year. We would not exist without their financial support. Several of our supporters and their events are listed below:

**Villages Pops Chorus** announces upcoming concerts: July 31, Hooray for Hollywood; October 24, Give a Hoot 2, December 4, We Wish You the Merriest. As always, the chorus promises a fun and delightful evening.

**The Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein**: October 15-17 at the Savannah Center – directed by Tim Casey, our webmaster and database developer!!

**United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties** – We thank them so much for their support of our book program (including the parent

outreach), our Public Allies partnership, and our technology development.

**Pilot Pen Corp** – Jim Matese (VP of Sales) and Amy LaPlante (Sales Coordinator) – We thank Pilot, Jim, and Amy for over 2,000 pens that tutors can use for their students' rewards.

**Friends of the Library (Sumter County)** – We thank them for their generous support of giving books to the students at Wildwood Elementary and Wildwood Middle Schools.

**Donations** – Since the May newsletter, Tutors for Kids received over \$21,100 in donations from United Way and the Friends of the Library (Sumter County). 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

**Repeated from May's newsletter** - These schools need School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) and School Book Coordinators (SBCs).

**Belleview Santos** - Two School Book Coordinators.

**Beverly Shores** - One School Book Coordinators

**Fruitland Park** – One School Tutor Coordinator

**Villages** – Two School Book Coordinators to help Brenda Thompkins

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

(See link in email accompanying this newsletter for what the STCs and the SBCs do for Tutors for Kids.)

### Stores for Website and Facebook

Search your memory for interesting stories about your tutoring experience – send them to us – so we can post them to the Tutors for Kids website and Facebook.

#### **Tutors for Kids**

**Frank Russo or Carolyn Ruhe - 352-245-9709**

**Web: [www.tutorsforkidsinc.org](http://www.tutorsforkidsinc.org)**

**Email: [tutorsforkids@att.net](mailto:tutorsforkids@att.net)**

**2017 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter from:**



United Way  
of Lake & Sumter Counties

**2016 Book Grant for Tutors for Kids from:**

