



# TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

## November, 2017

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

**Excited Children Eager to Learn**

**Our Children – Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow**



*Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process.*

*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.*

**Holiday Books** – Long-time tutors realize how important giving Books for the Break at the holidays is. Each child in a class where one or more tutor is volunteering receives a book to take home to keep. We encourage them to read the book with their siblings and other family members during the holidays.

After the holidays, some of the students come back with stories about reading to family or friends, and some will decide to do a book report after reading the book.

It is important that the children receive a book at their level so that they can read and understand it. It is also important that the book be interesting to the student. Do try to find out their interests (checking with the teacher is a good idea).

If multiple tutors are in the same class, only one book should be given from all the tutors in that class. The tutors can pick out the books together or designate one tutor to do the task. All of the tutors can present the books if possible (it's really fun!!).

Many of these children don't have their own books at home. Those, who have had a tutor before, usually look forward to getting these books and may even ask you if you will be giving books out before their "vacation time."

There is a story of one child's uncle who made a shelf for his niece, who was working with a tutor last year. She told everyone that she had her own library at home after two years of tutoring and was so proud of both the "library" and of her progress in reading.

Watch for an email from your School Book Coordinators (SBCs) with times to pick up your books. [\(Sharon Pierce\)](#)

**Holiday Fun** - Our holiday social get-together will be held at

**St. Timothy's Church (Main Hall)  
Tuesday, December 12  
3:00 p.m.**

We also invite you to bring your spouse, companion, and friends to this holiday social. There will be a couple of **door prizes** (really nice ones), and it is a great time to get to know more tutors - both those who work in your school and also those at other schools.

Bring a dish or munchies to share with 4-6 people and bring your own drinks. [\(Sharon Pierce\)](#)

**Our Holyday and Holiday Season** - This time of year brings out many joyful and sorrowful emotions not only in adult lives, but also in young children. They too have experienced adding new family members (who sometimes grab more attention than they now get), deaths in the family, economic problems because of job loss or illness, etc. Don't think that just because a child sits quietly by, he or she doesn't feel the dynamics of the family situation.

Do be careful at this time of the year about how joyful you expect children to be as there could have been serious problems at a past holiday that still is on their mind. Do support the positive things that they feel and encourage them to be helpful and loving to adults in their lives that are important to them. It is a good time for children to tell their family members and other friends that they are appreciated.

Remember that the children's ability to concentrate on schoolwork may take a little hit as their mind wanders to activities planned for the holidays. Help them focus so that they will be able to return to school in January determined to learn new things, and take advantage of every opportunity to become the best that each child can be.

Perhaps talking about your earlier life in school could show them that education is not just to get the children out of the house, but that it is the beginning of their whole life and can determine what their later work will be and who they will interact with and become friends with - - for a lifetime. [\(Sharon Pierce\)](#)

**New Tutor Training Notes** - On November 9, Rhonda Casey, Glen Moyer, and Jessie Jean-Baptiste did the training session for 14 new tutors. Yes, tutors are still joining our program and anxious to work with the students that need help.

This makes 95 tutor applicants that have received training since August of this year. We are a growing entity and a positive force in our communities. It is a good feeling to know that we are encouraging and succeeding with these students in the 12 schools where we volunteer.

**Upcoming Training Dates** – Three training dates remain over the next three months - at Belvedere Library off Rt. 466 in the Villages, near CVS. The next dates are:

Thursday, December 14 – 1:00 – 5:00  
Thursday, January 11 – 1:00 – 5:00  
Thursday, February 8 – 1:00 – 5:00

**The Principals Speak** - Many of you attended the meeting at St. Timothy's on November. 14. This meeting included attendance and a presentation by four of our area principals - Brian Greene, Bellevue Santos; Tammy Langley, Fruitland Park; Cynthia Brodie, Stanton Weirsdale; and John Temple, Wildwood.

Char Griffin moderated the session – and asked each of them four questions:

**Question 1.** What is the biggest challenge your school faces, and what strategies are you using or developing to deal with it?

In response they talked about the demographics of the area and the problems that the children faced from poverty and lack of a support system. Also they each stressed the need to build up confidence in their students by showing personal attention and interest to the

students. They all wanted to create a positive learning environment that would help the children towards a better education.

Question 2. How do you measure the impact of Tutors for Kids, and what have you learned from those measurements?

In Response each Principal gave examples of how the bottom 25% had moved up in their scores due in great part to the tutoring and encouragement that they had received. They all expressed their thanks and appreciation for what Tutors for Kids is doing in their school. This was very sincere, and we were moved by their answer.

Question 3. What suggestions do you have for making our tutoring program even more effective?

They urged that we continue to work closely with the teachers and continue meeting regularly with each of them. They stressed that we have their full support!

Question 4. What do you want to be your legacy at your school after you leave?

They all had different approaches to this topic. Essentially they all wanted to be known as having created a safe and creative learning environment for their students.

In addition tutors asked seven other questions. One key question was on the books that we give to the students. This brought a long and glowing report from each Principal about the value of the books, especially for students who could not afford to buy books.

P.S. Please do not forget to get those books for your students so that they can enjoy them over the Holiday break!

### Do you Know Someone Who is “Wild About Science”? -

This is a volunteer-driven, hands-on, discovery-based science program for 2nd and 3rd graders. Each Wednesday a team of volunteers meets at Fruitland Park Elementary to present two or three science investigations to 14 classes of eager students. The investigations are simple and designed by volunteers to match the Florida State science curriculum. The students love these investigations and can't wait until Wednesday each week to see what the volunteers will bring next. The teachers really appreciate “Wild about Science” because we do almost all the preparation work for them and because the students are totally engaged in every investigation.

This program addresses the need for better science education at the local, state, and national levels. You do not have to be a scientist to do this work; the investigations are simple and fun. If you know somebody who might like to change children's lives through science encourage them to join us! For information, call Randy Horn at 256-577-3748.



More Science Experiments – Dr. Thi Tran, local dermatologist donated bracelets to Tutors for Kids. The bracelets turn from white to a bright purple when exposed to the sun, as a reminder to everyone about the importance of sunscreen. The bracelets prompted a science experiment in a 1st grade class at Stanton Weirsdale. The students are trying to find out how sun can produce changes on colored paper when left in the direct sun. They taped the clear band you provided to

the same board and lo and behold the clear band became purple when exposed to the sun. The teacher pointed out that the students' skin would also change if exposed too long to the sun without protection.



NOTE: from Sharon Pierce - I'm going to try to find out where some of our tutors came from before they moved to central Florida (if they aren't native Floridians). I'll let you know in a later newsletter how many different places that people originally came from. It is always interesting to learn about other parts of the country. I've been over much of the eastern half of our United States, but don't know much about the western half. You can help me out by introducing yourself to me and telling me where you are from. P.S. You can find me at the table with the Belleview-Santos group.

Donations – Thank you David Suleiman of Johnny Rockets and the Knights of Columbus for their generous donation of \$600 – and \$316 from a friend of TfK and a book club.

Holiday Greetings to you and your Families - May each of you have a Happy Holiday and a Blessed New Year!!!

### For your Calendar

December 4 at North Lake Presbyterian Church – “We Wish You the Merriest,” a holiday concert by The Villages Pops Chorus (tickets at Villages Entertainment on October 12)

December 12 3:00 at St. Timothy's Church – TfK monthly meeting – holiday celebration – see article above

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