



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

December, 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 and Holyday Greetings We have had several weeks of holidays and holydays touching almost each one of us. We have celebrated Thanksgiving, are now in Advent and Hanukkah, soon to be followed by Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Year's Day, and Epiphany. The Tutors for Kids Board of Directors extends to all of you and your families our hope for 2018 that you will be blessed with good health, happiness and peace.

Books and a Big Surprise for One Class – We all know how much the children love their books. One class at Stanton Weirsdale got an additional gift which was a terrific surprise! The class is Grade 3, and the teacher is Shannon Weiss. The tutor in the class has been with Tutors for Kids for many years. The tutor is Jim Cook. Every year Jim has enthusiastically passed out books at break time and also has been a regular picking up books for his bag.

This year Jim's wife, Cindy, decided to give an additional gift for the holidays. She started her preparation during the summer. She worked hundreds of hours on her gift project. And it paid off one hundred fold. Along with their books each student received a multi-colored quilt for their bed. The picture on the children's faces showed surprise and joy! (Unfortunately the children did not sign a 'press release' so we cannot publish the picture. But take our word. They were surprised!

We give a big 'Thank you' and bravo to Cindy and her helpers!!

Our Holiday Party I hope you attended the Tutors for Kids Holiday Party at St. Tim's on December 12. The munchies were phenomenal! (I had to talk about the food first!) Two large tables were crowded with goodies from chips and dips to pies. As tutors came to the meeting they quickly went over to the food table. No one needed to tell them what to try. Everything looked so good.

Frank had to call the meeting to order twice in order to get us back to our seats. After greeting everyone and wishing all of us a special Holiday Season, Frank made sure the formal part of the meeting was short. The best news was that we were going to receive United Way funding for another year... but they kept us in suspense for a few days

The party began with the activities that are usually part of a party. One game that we played was The Twelve Days of

Christmas with the object being to change the gifts received on the 12 days. Each table decided on the best answers given from the tutors at their table. Then we had to decide which table had the best answer. That was hard! Most of the lyrics were funny or brilliant. It definitely was enjoyable!

Each attendee received a ticket for the drawing of a door prize. Shortly before the end the numbers were pulled. And wow! There were dozens of door prizes. Jewelry such as necklaces, earrings, rings and watches were donated for prizes by Sharon Pierce, and two baskets of treats donated by Terry Perrera.

Those who didn't make it did miss a great time. Maybe next year everyone will come. **(Sharon Pierce)**

Books Given to the Classes – This was a busy time for the STCs and the SBCs as they sent out reminders of when the tutors could pick up the books. Coordination among tutors and teachers required extensive planning. It was crucial that the books would fit the children's interests and reading ability.

Hopefully the students will be reading the books not only to themselves, but to siblings or parents or friends as they enjoy their Holiday break! Do check with them after the Holidays are over. It may help you to get an idea or two on what kind of books were most enjoyable to the class and help with our planning to order for the end of the year. **(Sharon Pierce)**

Importance of January through May for Tutoring - As the children come back to school, many will be anxious to tell what they did during the Holidays. Some will have trouble for a few days getting back to schoolwork. After a few days it is very important that they realize "now it is time to get serious and concentrate on learning". There should be few distractions with only 5 vacation days for the next few months. (Sharon Pierce)

It is important that they realize that you (the tutor) and they (the students) are a team and that together you can help them accomplish the skills that they will need. It is important that they believe that you are there to support them in their learning, and their part is to keep their minds on learning. This method will give them the opportunity to succeed. **(Sharon Pierce)**

We Need Additional Board Members - You have heard about this before. As most of you know, the TfK Board has been meeting monthly for the past year and a half to ensure that TfK remains a viable and successful organization.

At present, our Board is small (12 members). To continue making Tutors for Kids sustainable we need to expand our Board to 18 members. We are trying to continue as an all-volunteer program. Currently no member of Tutors for Kids receives a salary or stipend. If we stay all-volunteer we can avoid the need to raise funds for salaries and put all of our energy into tutoring students and providing new books to them.

We are a working Board. Each Board member is responsible for supervising one subcommittee. These are the volunteers such as the School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) and School Book Coordinators SBCs that help the organization run smoothly.

New Board members will make sure that we are providing sufficient help to the tutors, STCs, SBCs, and teachers as we face the challenge of a continuing growth in Tutors for Kids.

We believe our system is very important in providing a positive image of education, since it is the answer to what these students can accomplish as productive adults. As they see a positive image of themselves, they suddenly realize that education will give them new choices for the future.

If you have questions about being a board member or believe that you would like to come to a meeting or two and see if you would feel comfortable joining us, why not give us a call or e-mail. Any of the Board Members would be happy to fill you in on what we do at our monthly meeting. I'll give you my phone # 352-307-5376 and my e-mail is rpspsf@AOL.com. Try us...you might like us. **(Sharon Pierce)**

Upcoming New Tutor Training – Yes, we have seven new tutors coming to training on Thursday, January 11, from 1 – 5 p.m. at the Belvedere Library off Route 466 in the Villages, near CVS. We will send details to all enrolled in early January.

In addition to January 11, we have one more - February 8.

After February, the next dates will be in the 2018

Do you Have a Picture - We are looking for pictures of your students receiving books at the December break. Our grantors want some human interest stories about students and books. So PLEASE email to tutorsforkids@att.net NOTE: In order for us to use them, we MUST have a signed authorization letter. We thank you.

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

This is a volunteer-driven, hands-on, discovery-based science program. It takes place at Fruitland Park Elementary in Grades 2 and 3. The investigations are simple and designed by volunteers to match the Florida State science

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.

Donations – Since our last newsletter, we have received \$1,350 in donations from the Rotary Club, Noon in the Villages and other friends of Tutors for Kids. A HUGE thank you!!

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - Tutors for Kids will make a major announcement about 'social media' in the January newsletter. We will have different 'forums' for School Tutor Coordinators STCs, for School Book Coordinators, and Tutors. These 'forums' will give each group a chance to share experiences, discuss problems, make suggestions, etc. Stay tuned for further details.

For your Calendar

St. Timothy's Meetings – There is NO tutor meeting in January at St Timothy's. **The next tutor meeting at St Timothy's is on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.**

April 9 – The Villages Pop Chorus Presents “You Can't Stop the Beat” at North Lake Presbyterian Church. There are two performances – 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The concert will feature a variety of great popular songs including Broadway, the movies, rock, and standards. Tickets will go on sale in early January at Villages Entertainment. These concerts sell out FAST!

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2017 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



2017 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:

