



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

March, 2018

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.

Tutors Appreciation Day – Several years ago, we awarded certificates for five years of service to three tutors. Now there are almost 70 tutors with five years!! That is amazing!!

We invite you to honor this next group of tutors with 5+ years of service. What a sign of dedication! What a benefit to our students! This calls for a celebration.

Please join the celebration: **Tuesday April 10th at 3:00**
St. Timothy's Church (Main Hall)
1351 Paige Place (off Route 27/441)
Lady Lake, FL

The Main Hall holds 200+ people. **PLEASE** pack the place. The honorees deserve a huge round of applause. Light refreshments. Bring your spouses, partners, friends, neighbors.

Books for End of the Year – Yes it is hard to believe. The end of the school year is fast approaching. It is time to pick up books for all the students in your classrooms. (**Remember: if there is more than one tutor in your classroom, work together to pick out one book to give by your group of tutors. Some classrooms have several tutors. We want each student to receive one book - so you have to agree on one book – not a separate book from each tutor.**)

Schedule to Pick Up Books – Your School Book Coordinators (SBCs) will email you to let you know when the book rooms are open. For the best selection, get your books as soon as your SBC contacts you. Remember these are books for summer reading. Select chapter books if possible. For example, a student going from 4th to 5th grade should have a grade 5-chapter book. Summer is a long time.

If you leave in early May, pass them out before you leave or give them to the teacher to give at the end of May.

Schools Without Book Rooms - Five schools do not have book rooms. Tutors have to come to Frank and Carolyn's home to get books: Belleview, Harbour View, Marion Oaks, and Stanton Weirsdale come on these days:

Friday, April 20 – 9:00 – 11:00
Sunday, April 22 – 3:00 – 5:00
Monday, April 23 – 3:00 – 5:00
Tuesday, April 24 – 3:00 – 5:00
Wednesday, April 25 - 3:00 – 5:00
Thursday, April 26 - 3:00 – 5:00
Tuesday, May 1 - 3:00 – 5:00 (this is the end!!)

What about next year? – We hope you want to tutor again next year. If so, talk with your teacher regarding the grade, day, subject, and time. Hopefully you and your teacher will work together again. AND, PLEASE, PLEASE, advise your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) about your plans, especially, if you want to change teachers or schools. It is critical that you tell your STC. They spend many hours tracking this information to be sure you are assigned. AND, our funders ask for statistics as a condition of funding for your books!!

GOOD NEWS!! If you are approved in Lake or Sumter counties, your approval is valid for three years. BUT you may receive an email asking to verify or update your information.

In Marion County, you submit an application each year. You STC must know your plans so s/he can email you the application as soon as it is available, usually early August 1.

Report on the STC meeting on Tuesday March 13 - We had a great turnout at the mid-March meeting of your School Tutor Coordinators (STCs). There was a cross-section of grades and schools represented, as well as, email responses from STCs who couldn't join. There were lively roundtable discussions among the STCs - the topics covered included the following:

- Ideas for facilitating communication with tutors, teachers, and staff at each school
- Encouraging tutors to volunteer as STCs
- Tracking the applications of new tutors
- Ensuring that new and returning tutors are scheduled in their matched school/grade as soon as possible following their county approval

Your TfK Board members who attended expressed their appreciation to the STCs for filling this critical and important role. They also received valuable feedback for future training needs for STCs and are working to enhance the support of the STCs. Thank you to all of the STCs who participated. (by Rhonda Casey)

Speaking of School Tutor Coordinators - Have you considered becoming a School Tutor Coordinator? Are you wondering what is actually involved in this volunteer position? Here is the job in a nutshell – guide tutor applicants through the County approval process, match approved tutors to teacher requests using a computer-based program, maintain ongoing email communication with tutors and teachers and serve as a mentor to assigned tutors. The time commitment varies with the beginning of the school year requiring the most time as tutors

are placed in classrooms and minimal time required throughout the year to maintain communication with tutors. Would you like more details? Ask your current STC, look for Rhonda Casey at the next meeting or call Tutors for Kids at 352-568-5843. (by Rhonda Casey)

Survey from Tutors Monthly Meeting – The “We Need your Help” survey from the February 13th tutor meeting gave the following results (in red) below.

Lynn Leavitt, Board member, composed the survey and compiled the results:

1. I would like information on: **73 topics were suggested.**
2. I think it is important to get to know tutors from other schools. Yes **29** No **6**
3. I think that the meetings are: Too long **7** Too short **0** Just right **25**.
4. I would be happy to share information on my past experiences with the group. Yes **2** No **1** My area of expertise _____.
5. I would like to have time to communicate with other tutors during each month. Yes **34**; No **2**, If yes how often? **15 suggestions were made.** (by Lynn Leavitt)

Facebook and Tutors for Kids – Jessie Jean-Baptiste, our intern with Public Allies, has enhanced our Tutor for Kids’ page on Facebook. Jessie writes:

The Tutors for Kids Facebook Page is live and in action! We’re expanding our horizons and taking on Social Media. With the way times are changing, it’s become more and more important for organizations like ours to be on Social Media.

General Guidelines When Posting: All posts should **exclude** any identifying features such as: the student’s name, teacher’s name, and school’s name. Questions? Contact Jessie at jessie.jean-baptiste@tutorsforkidsinc.org

Growing up, did you used to sound words out? Maybe you used to connect the words you were learning with images you knew to make it easier. Or maybe you had to jump up and down to be able to remember how to multiply by 3’s. Maybe you did all 3. Maybe you didn’t. All kids have different tricks they use to better understand a topic. This article explains the basic learning styles of children, what they may look like and how to approach students in a way they will be more receptive.

<http://extension.illinois.edu/succeed/learningstyles.cfm>

For STC’s - Tutors for Kids is an organization built completely from the dedication and passion of its volunteers. STC’s and SBC’s are they figurative “glue” that keeps our mission intact. That’s because you manage the volunteers! Here on some tips on how to keep our volunteers committed.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/21/how-to-retain-volunteers_n_3631591.html

For our SBC’s, Organizing the book room is a project. Our goal is to have the book program be a more active presence for some of our tutors. To do that, you need a good system of organization! Here are some ideas and examples on how you

can revamp your book room to make sure it runs smoothly, even without constant maintenance.

<http://lcosu.blogspot.com/2012/12/the-school-book-room-oasis-for-readers.html>

Setting up a Facebook Account - NOTE: **If you do not have a Facebook account**, the link below is a YouTube video that describes the steps necessary to make a Facebook account.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkVf8BIE8rI>

Facebook for STCs and SBCs – By now every STC and SBC should have received an invitation from Facebook to join the new STC Group in their email. If you have questions or are unsure regarding this email, contact Jessie Jean-Baptiste at:

jessie.jean-baptiste@tutorsforkidsinc.org

Instructions for the STC – SBC login can be found in the February newsletter.

Donations – Since our last newsletter, we have received \$623 from supporters (including Amazon Smile) and friends.

Amazon Smile – ALERT!! Remember, when you shop at Amazon – and log in using the TfK link, we receive a small portion of your purchase. GOOD NEWS – through March 31, we will receive three times their usually percentage!! Use this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4815598>

Support our Supporters

April 9, 3 and 6 p.m. – The Villages Pop Chorus Presents “You Can’t Stop the Beat” at North Lake Presbyterian Church, featuring a variety of great popular songs including Broadway, the movies, rock, and standards. Tickets are on sale at Villages Entertainment starting February 22. These concerts sell out FAST!

352-568-5843

Web: www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

Email: tutorsforkids@att.net

2017 and 2018 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



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