



# **TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.**

**August, 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.*

**School Has Started** – The day you have been waiting for has arrived! So, here are some instructions for **returning tutors and new tutors**. Please note there is a list of all School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) linked to the email with this newsletter. The link is repeated later in this email.

### **Returning Tutors**

If you have made arrangements with last year's teacher and your approval is still valid, just contact your teacher to arrange a start date **AND advise your STC** of your day(s) and time(s). (Note Marion County tutors - you must complete your yearly volunteer application for approval before you can start).

If you are returning and want to change your teacher then you must contact your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) and make those arrangements

### **New Tutors**

You have two tasks to perform:

**First** - an application to your school's county to be approved as a volunteer. In Lake and Sumter, the application is online. Your STC has instructions on how to apply – check with your STC. In Marion County, your STC should have sent you the application.

**Second** - you must participate in one training session. The dates for the training sessions have been sent to you. (They are also listed in this newsletter). Select a date, send an RSVP with this info, and you will receive a copy of the training manual.

We want to start placing new tutors soon after they are approved and finished their training.

**Kick-Off the 2018-19 Year – With Four Special Guests** - At the start of each school year, we have a 'kick off' meeting to celebrate a new year of tutoring. This is a GREAT opportunity to meet the Tutors for Kids "players," perhaps meet your STC, and learn more about tutoring. We want to "pack the hall" and "jump start" the year.

This kick-off is open to everyone and is on Wednesday, September 12, at 3 p.m. in the Lake Miona Rec Center on Buena Vista Blvd, in The Villages. **NOTE: By special arrangement, it is open to all non-Villagers and Villagers alike. Please come and bring a neighbor, spouse, partner, or friend so they can see what you do to help our students.**

**Our Special Guests** – We are delighted and honored to have three teachers from our schools who will discuss with us and answer specific questions:

- Eileen Badger, Media Specialist at Wildwood Elementary.
- Elizabeth Scholl, Grade Two teacher at Belleview Santos Elementary.
- Karen Strong, Grade Four teacher at Stanton Weirsdale Elementary.

Some topics they will discuss are:

- What testing is used to determine reading levels and how often is it done?
- Have our tutors affected your student population and if so, how?

In the second half, another guest joining us is a representative from United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties. This is their yearly visit, and we are proud to be the top education program that they fund. During 2018, we are receiving \$30,000 to support our free book program and the fees for our two databases.

They ask us to help raise funds. We will receive a pledge card. This is entirely optional - not required. But some amount would be helpful.

This is also a good opportunity to meet some tutors at your school. Also you can meet the School Tutor Coordinators (STCs), the School Book Coordinators (SBCs), the Board of Directors, and the dozens of volunteers who are behind the scenes to help things run smoothly.

**Future Tutor Meetings** - These tutor meetings will continue throughout the year. Mark your calendars. The topic for each meeting will come from the surveys that we did last year when you told us what topics for this year's program. All meetings will start at 3 p.m.

- Wednesday, September 12, at Lake Miona
- Wednesday, October 17, at Lake Miona
- Wednesday, December 12, at Sea Breeze
- Wednesday, February 13, at Lake Miona
- Wednesday, April 10, at Lake Miona

**Our School Needs for the 2018–2019 year** – We have evaluated how many tutors we need to start the new school year. The results of the principals' and teachers' requests:

These schools are requesting the greatest number of tutors: Beverly Shores Elementary, Fruitland Park Elementary, Harbour View Elementary, Stanton Weirsdale Elementary, Leesburg Elementary, and Rimes Early Learning Center.

Other schools have needs at different grades. We will keep you posted in the September newsletter about additional needs.

Tutors, you are the best source of new folks – so continue to “spread the word”.

Several of you have referred your neighbors and friends. THANK YOU!! Our screening team has been talking with new folks – so keep spreading the word!!

**New Tutor Training** – New tutor applicants have received an email announcing the dates for training and requesting an RSVP. Mark your calendar now from these dates. You only need to select one date. When you receive the email, just reply with your choice.

At Belvedere Library (off Route 466 in The Villages)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thursday	September 13	1:00 – 5:00
Tuesday	September 25	9:15 – 1:15
Thursday	October 4	9:15 – 1:15
Tuesday	October 23	1:00 – 5:00
Thursday	November 8	1:00 – 5:00
Tuesday	November 13	9:15 – 1:15
Thursday	December 13	1:00 – 5:00

(NOTE: Ft McCoy tutors already have their September 18 date and do not need to respond).

**Applying to Sumter County for Wildwood** – New tutor applicants and returning tutors whose three-year approval needs to be renewed please note that Sumter County is changing their online volunteer application software and transferring all current approved volunteers to their new system. We were informed three days ago that the process was not finished. So our only advice at this time is the ‘keep trying’.

**Update on the School Tutor Coordinators** – As we reported last month we have seven new STCs in our schools. And, we have additional needs:

- Beverly Shores (1 STC),
- Belleview (1 STC), and
- Villages (1 STC).

Again, we ask you to think about your skills, dedication, and time – this is a critical role in our organization!! Without STCs, it doesn’t happen!! If you would be interested please send an email to: [tutors@tutors4kids.org](mailto:tutors@tutors4kids.org)

**Computer Help** – We have a database tracking system for enrolling our tutors and assigning them to schools and teachers. Also, we have book distribution tracking system that helps us order and distribute about 17,000 new books each year to students in twelve different schools.

AND, we have a great data entry volunteer who helps to do input.

AND we still need people with good computer skills to help those volunteers (STCs and SBCs). If you have good computer

skills (or know of someone who does) and would like to help, please call Frank Russo at 352-245-9709.

**Thank You to our Funders** – Duke Energy Foundation and United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties have again confirmed their confidence in our tutoring and book program by rewarding us with generous grants: Duke Energy donated \$5,000 for books in Marion County; United Way continued with their quarterly donation of \$7,500 for books for Lake and Sumter Counties and technology.

**Shopping at Amazon?** – IF you log in using the TfK link, we receive a small portion of your purchase. Use this link to access Amazon:

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

**Another article to Read** – Here is another article entitled

**Can volunteers help kids read more proficiently? New research says yes.**

(Put your cursor on the article link and press the ‘control’ button and click the mouse).

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/can-volunteers-help-kids-read-more-proficiently-new-research-says-yes/2015/03/28/7141c57c-c4ec-11e4-ad5c-3b8ce89f1b89\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/can-volunteers-help-kids-read-more-proficiently-new-research-says-yes/2015/03/28/7141c57c-c4ec-11e4-ad5c-3b8ce89f1b89_story.html)

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Email: [tutors@tutors4kids.org](mailto:tutors@tutors4kids.org)

2018 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



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2017 and 2018 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



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