



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

December, 2019

*Excited Children Eager to Learn
Celebrating 10 Years of Tutoring Children*

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.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

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 2020 that you will be blessed with good health, happiness and peace.

Cancellation – The Tutors for Kids club meeting scheduled for December 11 at 3:00 in the Lake Miona Re Center is cancelled. As mentioned in the November newsletter one of our Board members and tutors, Lynn Leavitt, who tutored at Wildwood Elementary for over six years, passed away after a long illness. Her memorial service is on Wednesday, December 11, at 3:00. Lynn was very instrumental in planning and organizing our tutor meetings – so in respect for family, tutors, and Board members who will attend Lynn's memorial service, our December meeting is cancelled.

Rotary Club at Noon – Tutors for Kids received a donation of \$1,000 from the Rotary Club at Noon in the Villages. This is the seventh year that their donation has helped in the purchase of books for children and support of other services performed by Tutors for Kids. We are very grateful to have such strong partnership with the Rotary Club at Noon.



Jerry Brillante presents check to Carolyn Ruhe and Frank Russo

An Additional Tutor Orientation Date – Good news!! We have added an additional orientation date - January 21, 2020 from 9:30–12:30 at Belvedere Library off SR 466 (at CVS, turn at the light). If you are a new tutor applying for assignment and have not registered for the new tutor orientation, please call our central phone number at 352-568-5843. You will talk with our phone team.

NOTE: This is the last new tutor orientation for this school year. After this session, new tutors will wait for the new school year in August 2020.

Do You Speak a Little Spanish? – We still have a need! If you speak a little or are very proficient in Spanish, Wildwood Middle High School needs your immediate help? Students are from Guatemala who speak only Spanish want to learn English and catch up on their grades. But the students want to learn both English and their studies. If you can help, please email Josie Morello
J.Morello@tutorsforkidsinc.org

Hello - Wildwood Tutors (repeat) – You have a GREAT group of School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) who help the tutors at the school. And, we need your help. There are over 100 tutors at Wildwood, and we need two additional STCs for Grades 4 and Grade 5. We will train you If you can help, email Debbie Mailloux at

debbie.mailloux@tutorsforkidsinc.org

Talking Books (repeat) – Celebrating T4K's completion of 10 years of tutoring we are launching the Talking Books Project, 2020 for kindergarten students who are being tutored this year. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Thi Tran and the Friends of the Villages Library we can significantly expand our program. The material we use is the Paw Patrol series of eight books, with a computer style 'tablet' (Me-Reader). At the end of the eight-week session, the participant students keep the books and the tablet to take home and use.

Calling Tutors at Grade K for Talking Books (repeat) -

FYI – These Me-Readers and the Paw Patrol were a HUGE success last year in our pilot program at Rimes Early Learning Center. . .SO, if you tutor in Grade K and work with students one-on-one or with several students in a small group we want you to participate. Let us know your name, school where you tutor, email, phone, and most important your home address, (Why your street address? We plan to send the six sets {5 plus 1 for coaching} of Paw Patrol Me-Readers directly to your home address) Send this information by email to our Board of Director's Chair, Eileen Honohan at:

eileen.honohan@tutorsforkidsinc.org

We'll take it from there. You will receive a Five Step "How to Coach the Talking Books" sheet based on the experiences of the tutors/teachers/ students in last year's pilot. It will include a suggested timeline, tips for coaching, and more.

If you want to participate - send in your info by December 31, 2019. We want to start the program by the first of March and ends by the second week in May. **Note: this does not demand an extra day of tutoring, but we hope that you will use Paw Patrol on your regular tutoring day with your regular students.**

Education – How do we compare to the rest of the world? Several print and video media reported on the story. The article below is from the Washington Post

Teenagers in the United States continue to lag behind their peers in East Asia and Europe in reading, math, and science, according to results of an international exam that suggest U.S. schools are not doing enough to prepare young people for the competitive global economy.

The results of the Program for International Student Assessment — widely known as PISA — were released Tuesday December 3, 2019 and shows widening disparities between high- and low-performing students in the United States, adding to a growing body of evidence showing worsening inequity in public schools. Over 600,000 students from 79 countries took the exam.

Several countries lost ground, boosting the ranking of the United States, which now ranked eighth in reading and 11th in science. Its math score — below the average for other countries in the OECD — put it at 30th in the world, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

To read the full article put your cursor on the follow link and do a Ctrl + Click on it.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/us-students-continue-to-lag-behind-peers-in-east-asia-and->

[europe-in-reading-math-and-science-exams-show/2019/12/02/e9e3b37c-153d-11ea-9110-3b34ce1d92b1_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/us-students-continue-to-lag-behind-peers-in-east-asia-and-europe-in-reading-math-and-science-exams-show/2019/12/02/e9e3b37c-153d-11ea-9110-3b34ce1d92b1_story.html)

School Supplies - You can help – Each fall many volunteers start collecting classroom supplies for teachers in their area. Some people wonder why we do this and is it helpful? To find out the answers to these two questions just ask a teacher. Too many teachers in our country – the richest in the world –are left to use their own money and scavenge for classroom supplies. Here is one teacher's story:

Becky Cranson, like most educators, spends her own money on classroom supplies. That's not all the Michigan teacher does to get what she needs for her school and students. Like nearly all teachers in America, Becky Cranson spends her own money to buy supplies for her students. Working in a rural school district in Michigan, where 70 percent of her middle-school students come from low-income families, she spends at least \$1,000 a year for pencils, books, journals, glue sticks, tissues etc.

This article was first published in the Washington Post on November 6, 2019. To read the full article put your cursor on the follow link and do a Ctrl + Click on it.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2019/11/08/i-am-scavenger-desperate-things-teachers-do-get-classroom-supplies-they-need/>

Phone for Tutors for Kids, Inc.

352-568-5843

Web: www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

Email: tutors@tutors4kids.org

2019 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



United Way
of Lake & Sumter Counties

2019-2020 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



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