



*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 for Kids Tutor Meeting** - The next tutor meeting is on Wednesday February 19 at 3 p.m. in the Lake Miona Recreation Center. This meeting is open to Villagers and non-Villagers. The topic is **Positive Behavioral Support**.

Doug Kreiselman and the program committee will lead the February meeting as the group examines challenging behaviors that are sometimes exhibited by our students. It will also include strategies for “keeping our cool” while encouraging our students to make positive choices.

**Positive behavioral support** is a general term for classroom management strategies designed to help teachers understand why challenging behavior occurs, address the motivation behind the behavior, and alter the learning environment to provide positive support and encouragement for the desired behavior.

As tutors, we appreciate that the teacher is responsible for the behavior management system used in the classroom but we need to be confident that our approaches to challenging behavior are aligned with the student’s need and classroom expectations. As in previous meetings, there will be a brief presentation followed by small group discussions of real time issues with suggestions and solutions generated from your fellow volunteers, many of whom have years of experience in this area.

**Tutors – Can your Students do More?** – Most of you have been in the classroom for at least four months. If this year is like most, your students have been doing fine, but not making great advancements. Starting in January is a great time to encourage them to do more. From August to December the students have had many distractions and days off with holidays and special school events. But in the next few months, the distractions will be at a minimum. They have ‘spring break’ but not much more. So, encourage them to do MORE.

**United Way of Lake and Sumter Grant** - Again this year United Way has awarded us a grant for the important work that all the tutors do and the books you give. The grant is paid each quarter at the rate of \$2,500 per quarter.

Due to demands on United Way for grants from many other organizations our grant has been reduced over the last few years. With this reduction and donation from individuals, we may not be able to meet our goals of providing 17,000 new books to children in our tri-county area. In view of this shortfall, we are aggressively seeking grants and funds from other organizations. If you know of any foundations that would be appropriate to contact, please let us know in email to [tutors@tutors4kids.org](mailto:tutors@tutors4kids.org)

**Rotary Club at Noon** – Tutors for Kids received a donation of \$1,000 in January 2020 from the Rotary Club at Noon in the Villages. This is the eighth 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.



Left to right: Carolyn Ruhe, Jerry Brillante, Frank Russo

**Kindergarten Students at Beverly Shores Receive Books and Pillows** – Kindergartners danced with joy when they received their gifts — custom-embroidered pillowcases with pillows and pockets with a book. “It’s a special one,” kindergartner, A’Mya Early said about her pillowcase. “It was a great present.” The books were a gift from Tutors for Kids – and the pillowcases were made by members of the Machine Embroidery Quilting Club, which meets at Big Cypress Recreation Center.



Tutors for Kids volunteer Jan Ramus, of the Village of Sanibel, left, stands with kindergarten teacher Katherine Stevens, right, and her class at Beverly Shores Elementary School in Leesburg.

**Books for your bag** – You have given out books to each student in the class where you tutor just before the holiday break. This distribution is called **‘books for the break.’**

Please don’t forget the other part of our book program called **‘books for the bag.’** These books are for the students who you tutor each week. But remember they have to ‘earn’ this book. You determine how they earn it.

All tutors have the ‘Tutors for Kids’ blue bag. You should always carry a few books in your bag - and when a student has earned a book, let the student select the book from those in your bag.

These books are also in your Tutors for Kids school book room. The school book coordinators are re-ordering books to make sure there is enough of a selection.

**Hello – PLEASE 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](mailto:debbie.mailloux@tutorsforkidsinc.org)

**Talking Books Update** – The Talking Books program for Grade K students is preparing to launch in March. Twenty-three kindergarten tutors have signed on. Each tutor will have five sets of the Paw Patrol eReader for five students. Each set has eight books and a mini-tablet. The books are from the TV series called the “Paw Patrol.”

What is the “Paw Patrol”? Ask any Grade K student and they will tell you the whole story.

This program is designed for students who have no one at home who reads to them or with them. There are eight symbols on the mini-tablet. When a symbol is pressed the tablet will read the story to the children as they follow ‘word for word’. On the second reading the student is encouraged to read along with the voice on the tablet.

The final teaching moment of the session with the grade K student is to select some of the new words in the story and say them out loud. Then the students spell the word.

The program will last for 8 weeks using one book from the set of 8 each week. At the conclusion, the students keep with the goal of increasing their reading ability.



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2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



2019-2020 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



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