



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

March 2020

Excited Children Eager to Learn
Celebrating 11 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.

In Memoriam – Long-time tutor and board member, Dan Miller, passed away this week after a long illness. Dan loved tutoring at Wildwood Elementary school and loved working with the children at the school. He was one of our original board members and was instrumental in organizing our tutor meetings at The Villages rec centers. His passing leaves a gap in our Tutors for Kids organization.

Coronavirus and Our Schools – By now, all tutors have received an email from us about the closing of schools in Sumter, Lake, and Marion counties. This email informed you that all three counties have extended their ‘spring break’. Children are doing ‘distance learning’ at home. As we all know, this situation is changing frequently – and we advise tutors to check their county school’s website for further updates. If we hear something we will email you.

Tutors for Kids wants all our tutors to stay safe. If schools do open, and your situation demands that you not return to class or any group settings, please let your teacher and your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) know of your decision.

April Tutor Meeting CANCELLED– This final tutor meeting for the school year was intended to honor the tutors who have been with Tutors for Kids for five years (CONGRATULATIONS!!). In addition, we planned to honor the many, many “behind the scenes” volunteers who keep things moving smoothly – the STCs, the SBCs, the phone team, the orientation team, the systems team, the data entry person, and the board of directors (THANK YOU!!). But, alas, we are not able to gather as a group – thus, the April meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, at 3 p.m. at the Lake Miona Recreation Center is **CANCELLED**. This is based upon a decision made by The Villages to close their recreation centers to insure the safety of all residents and guests. If there are any changes, we will inform you by email.

Stories you never heard – Each year hundreds of our tutors have had interesting experiences with one or more of their students. Obviously, we will not identify you, the school, or the student(s). But we need to hear your story. Below is one of those stories. Send us an email with your story to tutors@tutors4kids.org

A Heartwarming Story – Last school year, a tutor was working with her student to build confidence, as well as improving reading. Throughout the year, many, many times the tutor told the student how well she was doing (and she was really making good progress) and how proud she was of her. She scored one of the highest ranks in the class for a writing “pre-test.” During the last day of school, the tutor again told the student how well she did – and asked her if she thought she had done well. The student said, “Yes.” The tutor asked her why she thought so, the student said, “Because you kept telling me.” This reinforces the value of confidence building and praise – and brought a smile to the tutor’s face!!

Tutors for Kids Endowment – As announced in last month’s newsletter an endowment fund has been established for Tutors for Kids. The Tutors for Kids Endowment is a joint venture between the Central Florida Foundation and a management team from Merrill Lynch.

Tutors for Kids is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization with over 500 tutors working in 12 schools tutoring over 2,500 students each week. We are a nonprofit, but we do have expenses. We give out 17,000 new books each year and books are expensive. The endowment fund will ensure the financial stability of Tutors for Kids into the foreseeable future.

Donations of cash, stocks, and securities can be made to this endowment fund. Since Tutors for Kids is a 501 (c) (3) – nonprofit your donations will be tax deductible following IRS guidelines.

For more information send an email to Tutors@tutors4kids.org.

This Month's Featured School

Thus far, we have featured Beverly Shores (July), Belleview Elementary (August), Belleview Santos Elementary (September), Fruitland Park Elementary (October), Harbour View (November), Leesburg Elementary (February).

This month's school is Villages Elementary of Lake County, 695 Rolling Acres Rd. Lady Lake, FL 32159.

The Principal is Mr. David Bordenkircher. He has been in this position for over ten years. The school was founded in 1999. There are 44 classroom teachers, two guidance counselors, and 10 resource teachers. Student enrollment is approximately 800. There are 48 tutors in the school.

Board Notes Update on March 10 Meeting - The Board of Directors for Tutors for Kids had its quarterly meeting in the Laurel Manor Recreation Center on March 10th.

The Board approved the minutes of the two January meetings, the financial report, and the cash report.

The January Strategic Planning meeting documented three areas of concern looking forward to insure the stability of Tutors for Kids. The three areas are: Leadership Needs, Communication, and Technology.

The Leadership Committee is developing a succession plan. This includes recruiting Board members and officers.

The Communication Committee focused on the recruitment and development of a newsletter group.

The Technology Committee addressed ongoing concerns with the tutor and book databases. Both databases help in assigning over 500 tutors and tracking the distribution of 17,000 new books to children in our schools.

The action plans will be reported to a future Board meeting.

Talking Books 2020 Update – Some 24 Kindergarten tutors in nine of our schools volunteered to implement the Talking Books Project 2020. The goal of this project is to provide K students who would most profit from being read to outside of school with an electronic Me-Reader and a set of eight Paw Patrol books produced by Nickelodeon.

The plan, which will have to be modified to fit the time available now, was to coach five students per volunteer class in the independent use of these books and tablet type e-reader during the last quarter of this school year. At the end of the school year when all the other children in that class receive their "Book for the Break" from Tutors for Kids, these five students would get to keep their Me-

Reader and eight hardback Paw Patrol Books to be read to over the summer and share with others in their family.

The Talking Books Project was made possible through grants from The Friends of The Villages Library and Dr. Thi Tran of Village Dermatology.

If You Are Staying Home More? You are staying home and practicing social distancing . . . here are some suggestions to relieve yourself of the news and other channels. Check out these links to websites that could be interesting and educational. To view each link, hold down the control key on your keyboard and hold your mouse over the link and click on it with the control key still down.

Museums:

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

Zoos: Giant Panda Cam (National Zoo):

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams/panda-cam>

San Diego Zoo: <https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/live-cams>

Live Cams Wildlife cams <https://explore.org/livecams>

Amazon Smile use this link when shopping: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4815598>

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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>