



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Excited children eager to learn

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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 Welcome a New Editor

We are happy to announce that Judy O'Neill has volunteered to share in the writing of the Tutors for Kids monthly newsletter. Each month she will be writing creative articles and sharing ideas, to add informative and interesting articles.

Newsletter Articles for the Foreseeable Future

Even though the COVID 19 virus has curtailed our in-person tutoring, our monthly newsletter will continue to publish. You will notice a change in content, reporting in different ways. Such as: Stories from our tutors; reference articles; updates from schools when available, and highlights from our new tutor orientation manual.

REMEMBER WHEN by Judy O'Neill - inspired by Alan Jackson's song "Remember When"

The lyrics from this song reminded me of what we are going through right now. Remembering back to the spring:

Remember when we were so excited about spring break 2019? We said our goodbyes, have fun, and see you next week. Happiness all around. **Remember When**

Remember when we first heard about COVID 19 in March? We learned new vocabulary words and were told to self-isolate. Kids jumped with joy – no school-no school. **Remember When**

Remember when spring turned to summer and then to fall. Parents wanted their kids physically back in school and teachers wanted to teach but was it safe? What will we do? Life had changed but we must teach. Zoom? What is virtual learning? Some parents became teachers and students were sent to time out for days. **Remember When**

Remember when

Think ahead when we will all be together again. We will be glad; we will not be sad. We will be happy with the chaos, noise, bells, high fives, hugs, whining, crying, arguing, assignments not completed, and seeing everyone in person. Will it be wishful thinking that the kids will say that they missed school and are glad to be back? **Remember When**

Quick Update Tutoring in the Schools

– As reported in the Tutors for Kids Newsletter for July and August the Tutors for Kids Board of Directors has done their due diligence. After talking with the principals at each school and following developments at the three county websites the Board was informed that volunteers would not be allowed into schools until at least January 2021

New Mailing Address for Tutors for Kids

If you need to reach us by mail, our new address is:

**Tutors for Kids Inc.
2518 Burnsed Blvd.
Suite 339
The Villages, FL 32163**



If you need to call, our central number is **352-568-5843**

Amazon Smile Contributes to Tutors for Kids

Do you find yourself turning to on-line shopping more than ever due to Covid-19? **Did you realize that when you shop on-line at Amazon Smile, Amazon gives to Tutors for Kids?** This only happens if you and your family sign in using Amazon Smile.com How do you do this??

Copy this link into your internet browser [http://
smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4815598](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4815598)

It will bring you to the Tutors for Kids page in Amazon Smile

Shop as you usually do.

A portion of your purchase will go to Tutors for Kids



The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 1/2% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. There is NO cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. Customers will have access to the same products, features, services, and great low prices as on Amazon.com., but must use the Amazon Smile link above.

The amount of money given to Tutor for Kids from Amazon Smile last year was \$275.79. With that money we were able to buy 360 books. AND, we'd like to increase that amount for 2020!!

LISTEN

(We are unable to meet for our bi-monthly tutor meetings). As a replacement for meetings we will be featuring articles that are of an educational interest and topics that we would have discussed were able to hold our meetings.

The first of these articles is a series written by tutor, Deb Wile, who is also the coordinator for our bi-monthly tutor meeting. Deb gives the first installment and ends part one with a question. There is also a link to an educational reference on working with children.

We will continue the series next month. Here is part one of Deb's article entitled: **"Listen to your students ...It's the best form of teaching"**



When we first get to know a student, we're eager to learn about him/her so we ask lots of open-ended questions and listen carefully to the answers. We learn about likes and dislikes, family background, academic strengths, food preferences and more. By listening we learn about what makes a child "tick." All of this helps us to connect with the student as an individual and makes the relationship more meaningful for both tutor and student.

a worksheet, maybe a sheet on synonyms where she has to fill in the blanks from a word bank. The first question asks for a synonym for "Below is the link

[United Way of Lake and Sumter](#)



Most of you know that we have been awarded grants for the last five years from United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties. They have provided over \$75,000 to help us buy books for students in Lake and Sumter Counties schools and license our database that we use to track students assigned to teachers and tutors as well as track the ordering and distribution of our books.

Part of the awarding of grants is a contract between the recipients and United Way. Each recipient is contractually bound to help in their fund-raising campaign. This means that United Way will come to talk to the employees about contributing to United Way.

So, let's expand this idea of listening to students and think about what we might learn when we listen carefully... very carefully... to what a student says about her understanding behind an academic task. Here's an example....

Imagine helping a duffel." She tells you her answer and before writing it, looks at you for approval. If the answer is right, you smile and praise her. If not, you tell her to try again. This teaches her to "read your face," to guess and check until she guesses correctly.

End Part One – Question: "Is there another way to work with this student" Check back next month for another approach.

child complete

to a supporting article. (Use ctrl-click (with your mouse) to follow the link):

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/feb2019/asking-questions-stretch-children%27s-thinking>

You can also email your suggestions to the newsletter address: **Tutors@tutors4kids.org**



Since Tutors for Kids has no employees, we have fulfilled this requirement by having their representative speak at one of our bi-monthly tutor meetings. Covid-19 does not allow our bi-monthly meetings, so we ask if you desire to contribute to United Way, **use the form found as a link to the cover email of this newsletter.** At the bottom of the form, you can designate your donation be directed to Tutors for Kids. Reminders will be in the next newsletter.

Highlight from our Tutor Orientation Manual

The purpose of tutoring is to help students help themselves, and to assist or guide them to the point at which they become independent learners.

When we can return to school, we will have some new tutors. This article is a review of what a new tutor should expect and a refresher for current tutors. Keep in mind that we will not return until the school system feels it is safe. However, we must be ready to return. This is an excerpt from the current Tutor for Kids training manual:

About Tutors for Kids - 2020-2021 is the 12th year for Tutors for Kids, an entirely volunteer nonprofit dedicated to the schools in north central Florida. Here is who makes up Tutors for Kids:

- Board of Directors - comprised of 12 tutors and community members.
- School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) - "on-the-ground" volunteers at each school to work with tutors and the school to ensure that background checks are done – and that tutors are assigned to teachers.
- School Book Coordinators (SBCs) - volunteers who order and stock book rooms at the schools with Tutors for Kids books given as "gifts" to their students.
- Systems – a small group of IT folks who manage the Tutors for Kids' databases, website, and email systems.
- Students - Tutors for Kids typically serve in schools where 75 to 99 percent of the students in the schools are eligible for Title One services: free or reduced breakfasts and lunches; extra help in special programs; and many more. Typically, we service the lowest quartile of children who are struggling in their schoolwork. Title One students and programs have been studied exhaustively across the 50 States. The studies have shown that most students are at or below the poverty line and many of these come from challenging environments (single head of household families, homes without reading materials, constant poverty, unemployment, substitute parents via grandparents, overcrowding, malnutrition, etc.).

What is Our Role? - Tutoring and Giving out Books

Our primary roles in the classroom are to:

Help the teacher with students assigned, regardless of how the teacher is conducting the class. We are guests in the teacher's classroom.

Go to the classroom on the day assigned to meet your student (unless told to do something different by the teacher). (The front office can help you locate the classroom - do not wander around looking for a class)

Look for roadblocks that keep the child from learning and achieving,

Connect with the children to let them know that we are there to help them,

Encourage students to read, read, read and achieve A/R (Accelerated Reading) reading scores (see A/R section in this manual).



READ



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2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



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