



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Excited children eager to learn NOVEMBER 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.

Thanksgiving – Certainly 2020 is a year that we will always remember. COVID-19 is permanently embedded in our memories as a milestone in history. Here are other milestone markers that are significant. Grandparents talked about the influenza infection of the 1918–19's. Many grandparents had one or more children die during that time. A second marker was the depression of the late 20s–early 30s, which often spoken by our parents who remember vividly growing up in that period. World War II needs no explaining. Landing on the moon; various cultural revolutions; and the economic collapse of 2007-08 are all markers.

There was an inner strength and community strength to help people get through some of the bad times. Hopefully we will have the same strength and be willing to share our strength with others.

Suggestions for Thanksgiving and Christmas – Many of us have been trying to stay 'safe' by not venturing out except for necessities. You may have heard comments from friends and neighbors that their credit card bills are way down and their check-books are in great shape.

Not everybody shares those benefits. Remember that we tutor in schools that are 85 to 99% Title One students which means their families are at or below the poverty line. Food kitchens, Meals on Wheels, homeless shelters, etc. can use our help year round

Funding from United Way – Tutors for Kids has received their fourth quarter check from United Way. The amount is for \$2,500. This check is the last installment for our grant period in 2020.

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. The 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.

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 newsletters

Remote Tutoring a Quick Update – We have received a few replies to our article in October's newsletter asking if tutors might be interested in remote tutoring. After some recent discussions with principals, it seems as if the logistics involved in setting up remote tutoring are overwhelming. Another problem is getting students to participate. One principal said they are having significant problems getting students to participate consistently in 'remote learning' which is required. Thus, we suspect that remote tutoring will even be less successful.

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 and the upcoming holiday season? 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> 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 2021!!

Feature Article (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.

This last of three articles is written by tutor, Deb Wile, who is also the coordinator for our bi-monthly tutor meeting. This section is on math narrative problems.

One way to help students understand that a word problem is a story is to remove the question. Here's a typical word problem:

There are 4 doctors working in a clinic. Each doctor has two nurses assisting him/her. There are two receptionists, Jay and Molly, are working at the reception. How many people are working in the clinic?

Instead, cover the question so the student sees this:

There are 4 doctors working in a clinic. Each doctor has two nurses assisting him/her. There are two receptionists, Jay and Molly, are working at the reception.

Ask the student if she can imagine this happening in real life.

Maybe ask the student to draw a rough picture of the situation.

Hopefully she would draw something like this:



Once the student has finish noticing, ask, "What do you wonder?" This is the chance for the student to ask questions. For example, are all the doctors men and the nurses women, what do the receptionists do, why does each doctor get two nurses, what do the nurses do, if there were 6 doctors how many receptionists would they have???. Some questions are quite mathematical while others aren't, but all are important and can be recorded.

Often after noticing and wondering, the student will want to figure out the answers to her wonderings. Encourage this. And one of the best things is when you show the question from the original problem and the student has already answered it!

The Noticing and Wondering procedure was developed by a wonderful group of math educators at Math Forum. Here's a five-minute video (please watch it; it's fun and entertaining as well as informative and thought provoking),

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-Fth6sOaRA>,

in which Annie Fetter talks about a little boy on a plane and how asking him what he thinks instead of answering his myriad questions totally changes the conversation. And since she's addressing a major math conference, she then talks about applying this same strategy while teaching math. The examples are typical of what can happen.

If you want more information, Google "Noticing and Wondering." Better yet, go to youTube and search for Noticing and Wondering. Annie has a whole series of videos but she's only one of many. Speaking of Annie, she suggested this link, <https://annie.mathematicalthinking.org/index.php/2015/05/15/noticewonder-love/>, because she's a friend of mine!

While we're waiting for it to be safe to visit schools, try this with your grandchildren of any age. It's great.

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:

You may work with rotating students each week depending on the subject and the teacher's request for help.

If the teacher doesn't seem to know what to do with you, talk with the teacher, but if you can't seem to work out something - - - **ALERT your School Tutor Coordinator (STC)**. We want you to be as productive as possible because there are many teachers and students who need your help.

If you come to class and find a substitute teacher, you should do your normal work with your students. IF the teacher has not alerted the substitute and left any work for you, just find a book or article to read and probe with your student.

Bring some material with you 'just in case'. A good reference on materials for each grade is the website WWW.READWORKS.ORG. Set yourself up as a teacher sub-category tutor, with a login and password, then you can get answer sheets. They will not pester you.

Phone: 352-568-5843

Web: www.tutorsforkidsinc.org Email: tutors@tutors4kids.org

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

2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



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