



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Celebrating 12 years of Tutoring Children

Excited children eager to learn AUGUST 2021 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.

Do we start yet??? - This is the question many tutors are asking about volunteering in the schools. Here is an email that was sent to all 'active' tutors by the Board of Directors stating the Board's position during this time of changing policies due to Covid-19 and the Delta variant.

"Dear Tutors,

- The principals and teachers in the schools where we tutor are anxious to have our help.
 - The students need our help.
 - Our tutors are looking forward to getting back into the schools.
- However,
- Because of the current uncertainty of the COVID-19 variants,
 - The one-to-one nature of our interactions with students,
 - And concern for everyone's well-being,

At its August 9th meeting, your Board of Directors agreed to advise all our tutors that Tutors for Kids will await clearance to return to the classroom from the counties and schools in which we serve. **You will be notified of that date by your STC.**

If you, as an individual, would like to start volunteering sooner, without being under the auspices of Tutors for Kids, and districts/schools are allowing access, please do so.

We look forward to returning to our volunteer tutor roles. Thank you for your continued commitment to our students and school communities.

Sincerely,

Tutors for Kids' Board of Directors"



October 5, 2021

The Hoot sponsored by the Villages Pop Chorus is scheduled for **October 5th at Lake Presbyterian Church (near Home Depot) starting at 6 PM**. Tickets will be on sale at the Villages Box Office beginning September 1st. Tickets are \$15. Don't delay tickets go fast. Tutors for Kids will once again be designated as one of the charities for the event. Pops Chorus has been very generous to us over the years so we hope you'll be able to attend.

In the Spotlight



Eileen Honohan is in the spotlight this month.

I have enjoyed tutoring with Tutors for Kids at Beverly Shores Elementary School in Leesburg since 2016. Working with wonderful students and teachers in grades 1 and 2 has been a joy and I can't wait to return to in-person tutoring this school year.

In 2017, I was honored to be invited to join the Board of Directors. Over the past five years I have served with this dedicated group of volunteers to build a bridge to the future of Tutors for Kids with a special focus on continuity, sustainability, and direction for the future through managing the Board's strategic planning process and serving as the first transitional chair. This year I am pleased to be working with the new Tutors for Kids Grants Committee, a sub-committee of enthusiastic tutors searching for avenues of funding for our books program.

My background in education encompasses elementary, secondary, and graduate school experience; serving primarily in administrative roles from principal, assistant superintendent, superintendent in New Jersey, to college professor at Lehigh University, PA.

I especially enjoy traveling and swimming as daily as the weather allows. I play golf occasionally, belong to a great book club and have enjoyed living in The Villages for 16 years. Volunteering with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Mark Catholic Church in Summerfield helping neighbors in need is an ongoing commitment that complements my tutoring.

Thank you, Eileen, for submitting this article so we can get to know you better.





An article submitted by Frank Russo

There was a good article in the Daily Sun about Tutor for Kids and included interviews with several tutors. Sherry Levin, a tutor at Villages, Elementary shared her interview.

Garrett.Shillet, reporter

Here are Garrett's question and Sherry's answers:

So, what made you want to volunteer at a local school?

I firmly believe as we get older, it is critically important our lives have a purpose bigger than ourselves. I like to play golf and participate in clubs as much as any Villager, but for me, that wasn't enough. I always loved working with children, so Tutors for Kids was the perfect purpose.

Do you believe there is a need in schools for more volunteers?

For a variety of reasons, many children in area schools need additional help. School closures and online school due to Covid-19 made the past academic year even more challenging for these students. Now, more than ever, they need tutors.

How long have you been volunteering? And do you have any education background?

I had just completed my first year tutoring when Covid-19 kept tutors out of the schools. I look forward to getting back in the classroom. Although I have no formal training as a teacher, I volunteered as a Junior Great Books teacher and a Sunday School teacher for many years. Experience as a camp counselor gave me a lot of insight into working with young children.

What is your favorite aspect of volunteering?

Being a tutor is personal. I have a real opportunity to make a difference in students' educational success and self-esteem. It's great to see their smiles when I walk into the classroom. I love when their faces light up when I give them genuine praise and positive reinforcement for their efforts.

Do you find any particular difficulty reaching students? And how do you overcome that?

Tutors know that establishing rapport and trust are first steps to successful tutoring relationships. A little chit chat that shows interest in who they are and their lives opens the door.

What do you primarily do when you volunteer? what grade levels typically?

As a professional writer, improving writing skills is near and dear to my heart. I worked with fourth graders on reading comprehension, research techniques and writing skills.

And then anything else you would like to add? You don't have to be a retired teacher to be an effective tutor.



How do we get to know each student??

Article submitted by: Debra Wile

GETTING TO KNOW STUDENTS: INVESTIGATE LIKES AND STRENGTHS

As we anticipate returning to tutoring, we look forward to getting to know each student with whom we'll work. We imagine sitting and talking and getting to know each child. At the beginning we get a cursory understanding of the little person with us; as the year progresses, that understanding deepens. Much of this relationship is built by asking a series of questions.

You can add to that general conversation questions that will help you understand the child's academic strengths and needs. A child can be just as willing to talk about this as about his/her family and summer activities. These questions will lay the groundwork for your listening and for the child knowing that his/her ideas will be respected.

Let's talk about math first. Here are some questions.

- What's your favorite thing to do in math? If they balk or "don't know," suggest two areas or processes and ask the child to pick one. For example, for a young child, "Do you prefer addition or subtraction?" For an older child, "Do you prefer word problems or geometry?"
- What/why do you like about that?
- Can you show me an example? The child may choose to talk through an example orally but more likely will ask for paper and pencil. Listen and watch carefully. This will show you what the child knows. This is a place to start building.

We can ask similar questions about reading and writing.

- What kinds of books do you like to read? (Do you prefer made up stories or books with facts? Do you prefer fantasy or realism?)
- Why do you like that type of book?
- What is one of your favorite books? What is one book you have read recently?
- Can you find a book in the classroom that you'd like to read to me? Be sure the child chooses the book and the part s/he reads. Then listen carefully to his/her reading. Did the child pick a book s/he can read fluently or is the book too hard? If it's too hard, you can invite the child to find something else.

How many of us have asked the question, "What's your favorite subject in school?" It's a great conversation starter, but we can generally anticipate the answer: gym, recess, or lunch! If we ask more pointed questions, we allow our students to open up and share information about themselves that is more helpful to advance them academically while still ensuring that they feel heard.

DID YOU KNOW

Did You Know? - Tutors for Kids gives out **15,000** new books each year. Imagine the cost of buying that number of books. Fortunately, we have been able to get many books from our distributor, First Book, at reduced prices. But each year we have a hefty invoice to meet our 15,000 book goal. –

To help plan for the future purchase of books we mentioned last month **Tutors for Kids, is a non-profit (501) (C 3) so we can accept tax deductible contributions.** Also for the future stability of our non-profit we have an endowment with the **Central Florida Foundation** which also accepts tax-deductible contributions. We also have an account with **Merrill Lynch** that can take tax deductible-contributions such as stocks or other securities. One of the options for charitable giving is a charitable gift annuity. Based on your age you could receive fixed payments during your life-time. You should contact your CPA to discuss setting up opportunity such as a gift annuity or some similar instrument. It will be an a 'huge' help in funding our book program.

Amazon Smile Contributes to Tutors for Kids

Amazon Smile continues to fund Tutors for Kids based on your purchases through the Amazon Smile website when you place your order. You will pay no more than on the regular Amazon website but Amazon, through its foundation, will make a contribution to Tutors for Kids. Amazon donated over \$100 to Tutors for Kids recently. Thank you for using Amazon Smile to make your purchases.

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

Every little bit helps!



Here is another Volunteer position. We are looking for two people who could take over our social media programs namely Facebook and Twitter and maybe other avenues that we have not yet attempted. This 'duo' would have to be familiar with Facebook, have good computer skills, etc. and be willing to work independently. We have a Facebook account but it is sadly neglected.



Wanted—The newsletter would love to publish stories and happenings of your tutoring memories. Since we are not in the classroom yet, think about some funny experiences and/or suggestions to make us all better tutors. Send any articles to me at news@tutors4kids.org before the 15th of each month. Thank you in advance.

We have a new email for the newsletter. You can send me articles to include in the newsletter, questions, suggestions, and ways to improve the newsletter.

The new email is: news@tutorss4kids.org

Behind the Scenes –Did You Know



Tutors for Kids is a non-profit tax exempt organization. It is an all-volunteer organization. We have no paid employees. We do not charge a penny for our services. Before the pandemic, we had over 500 tutors in 12 schools working one-on-one with 2,600+ students each week. Additionally we give out approximately 15,000 brand new books each year to our students.

To keep things running smoothly there are about 75 volunteers working behind the scenes assigning tutors; ordering books, maintaining our database tracking system, answering phones, writing newsletters/correspondence, writing grants, raising funds, serving on the Board, etc. If you have any of these skills and would like to be a part of a great organization please contact us through our email newsletter: news@tutors4kids.org

August Trivia:



A man stands on one side of the river, his dog on the other side. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

Answer in next months newsletter

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2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



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

2019-2020 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



July Trivia: Answers:

1. What year was the Declaration of Independence adopted? **1776**
2. Who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence? **Thomas Jefferson**
3. What bird did Benjamin Franklin propose as the national bird? **Turkey**
4. Congress declared July 4 as an unpaid holiday in what year? **1870**
5. What year did July 4 become a paid holiday? **1938**
6. What is the birthstone for July? **Ruby**
7. What is the full moon in July called? **Full Buck Moon**
8. What U.S. President was shot on July 2? **Garfield**
9. July 4, 1960 two stars were added to the flag. Name the states. **Alaska and Hawaii**
10. What does the “dog days of summer” mean? How long does it last? **The hottest and most humid part of the year. Lasts 6 weeks beginning July 3 to August 11**

Answer to last month's question:

Which one letter in the alphabet is the ONLY ONE that is never silent in any word in the English letter? Most people guess it is Z, but some words in English derived from French words do have a silent Z, such as rendezvous.

Answer: **The Letter V**