

# TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC

Celebrating 12 years of Tutoring Children

Excited children eager to learn

## FEBRUARY 2022 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.*



### Board of Directors

#### Strategic Planning

Even though we are still experiencing the confusion that has been caused by Covid-19, the Board of Directors for Tutors for Kids is still planning for the next three, four, and five years.

The Board met on Monday, January 31st, through Zoom to participate in a Strategic Planning session. The agenda stressed the importance of strategic planning and focused on three areas:

1. Working with the School Tutor Coordinators (STCs).
2. Recruitment and Training
3. Long term leadership

Each board member was assigned a topic, and Zoom breakout rooms were set up. Each group will report back with a strategic plan at the March Board meeting.

#### Schools and the status of volunteers:

**Leesburg Elementary and Fruitland Park Elementary have temporarily ceased allowing visitors, including our tutors**

Wildwood teachers are asking for tutors

Villages/Lady Lake Elementary is asking for volunteers

Wildwood Middle School desperately needs math tutors.

### Tutors – Math Help Needed



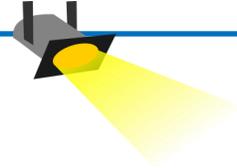
The newsletter has just received an URGENT request from the STC, Josephine Morello, at Wildwood Middle School. The request involves students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are way, way behind in Math.

Here is the request from the STC:

There are thirty-five 7th and 8th graders who need help with basic math. Currently their knowledge level is 3rd grade. They need help learning multiplication tables, etc. You will be working with a group of 2-3 students for about one hour several days a week. The students and tutors will meet in a designated area (conference room, office, media center) and two advisors will be available to answer any questions you may have. **This is extremely urgent.** If you are interested please email me at: [j.morello@tutorsforkidsinc.org](mailto:j.morello@tutorsforkidsinc.org) or call me at 352-430-2713.

Thank you, Josephine Morello

### SPOTLIGHT



Each month we highlight a different **board member**. I have no board members to spotlight. Would you consider writing an article for the newsletter? It can be a short article about yourself, your interests, why you joined Tutors for Kids, and your current role with Tutors for Kids. If you could also attach a picture of yourself, that would be great. I know it is short notice but hope someone will step up for upcoming months.

Also, a big THANK YOU to the board members that have shared their stories with us.

Please send your information to:

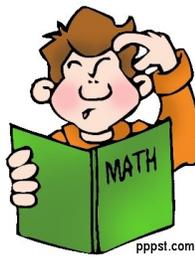
[news@tutors4kids.org](mailto:news@tutors4kids.org)



The Villages Pop Chorus will perform on **Monday March 28th at 3 and 6 PM in the North Lake Presbyterian Meeting Hall**. The theme is "Together wherever we go". Tickets can be purchased at the Villages Box Office. It is a great day of music and will sell out quickly. Additionally, The Villages Pop Chorus has been extremely generous to the Tutors for Kids program. So please go and lend them your support.

# Tutoring Math

by Frank Russo



In the last few issues, we discussed some of the 'old' math ways and the 'new' math. Essentially the 'old' math had numbers stacked up with math signs showing which procedure to use (add, subtract, multiple, divide). Below is a brief summary of recent math articles. We will then try to solve one major math obstacle for many students.

## In Summary

The new math is less stackable and more narrative. The students read stories or problems, abstracting the important numbers that could be used in structuring the math problem, and then deciding which math function to use.

The **first step** for a tutor is to see if a student has a reading problem. If yes, then this may be the reason for the student's math problems. We discussed some other problems which are the same for the 'old' math and 'new' math. They were summarized as problems found in the early grades that make math so difficult in later grades. They are starting in Grade K. First 'stopping the **scrawl**'. Don't let students scrawl their letters because scrawling numbers does not work. Math is part of a science. Rows and columns are fundamental.

**Second** in grades 1 and 2 make sure students understand and use the ones, tens, hundreds, etc. columns. We suggested using large square grids graph paper or turning your theme paper on its side. This helps students understand the use of columns.

**Third** in grade 3 the students must learn and understand the 'times table'. This is the biggest problem the student will encounter, and it affects all their later math.

## The Times Tables

Enter the third-grade tutor. One of the heroic accomplishments a tutor can achieve is helping a student learn and use the 'times tables'. Here are some 'hopeful' ways to accomplish this over the course of a year. Remember start small and be consistent. It may take part of your tutoring session each week for the entire year. But the result could be a successful math year for grades 3,4, and many more.

**Remembering that students learn differently**, you should try to employ all their senses. For example, have a pile of visual aids with you, using game chips, kernels of popping corn, etc. Start with the 'two' table. For example, have one pile of two game chips. Help the student understand that one group of two equals two. Have the student write it down in columns. Move on for the next row – two groups of two, equals four, three groups of two equals 6 and continue in order with the student writing down each row.

Save the students work and review a table each week. Help the student learn that knowing the 'times tables' saves a lot of time since the alternative is doing long rows of addition.

**Another method** of teaching the times table is to make it fun. Using the method above you can expand learning the 'times tables' by turning it into a fun poetry rhyming session. After a student writes down a row, they add a rhyming comment. For example, '2 x 1 = 2...' that's not new". 2 x 2 = 4... "tell me more". 2 x 3 = 6 ... "that's a good mix. 2 x 4 = 8 ..." that's great". Be patient and be consistent. Every math teacher will applaud you.

Next month we will have some grade appropriate narrative math problems to solve.



Remember the acronym for learning the order of operations? Sure you do, but you learned it a long time ago. Recently I was asked to help explain the following problem:  $(17-6/2) + 4 \times 3 =$  How would you explain it? Hint- PEMDAS Answer next month.

## 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. Thank you for using Amazon Smile to make your purchases.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-481558>



February is American Heart Health Awareness Month. Be aware of the choices you make pertaining to food, exercise, and daily living.. Focus on a healthy lifestyle this month and every month. Moderation is the key word to staying healthy.

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