Meet the MCLC Learner
Of the Month: Barbara

I am pleased to nominate Barbara as student of the month. We have worked together for about 4-1/2 years, and Barbara has worked hard in spite of health and family problems. She has overcome these obstacles to become a functioning reader and writer. I have seen her interest grow as she discovers the meaning of the written words on the page and her ability to express herself in writing. She is emailing and journaling and has recently been exploring her family genealogy online. I look forward to continuing to enable her progress as she becomes more confident in her reading and writing ability.

Nancy Collins - Tutor
A New Baby  
By Barbara

My granddaughter, Kathleen, lives in New Bern by the beach. I like to visit her and walk on the beach. Last fall, she told me she was having a baby! Kathleen and her husband, Chris, came to Southern Pines in March for a baby shower with our family. She had the new baby on April 26th. It’s her first baby, and it is a girl named Edith Pearl. Pearl is the name of my grandmother. I was excited to hear that she named her after her great-grandmother! Edith is my 8th great-grandchild. She weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long at birth. My grandson, Davey, is taking me to see her soon. I’m really excited!

A Good Book  
By Maxim

I have been reading a really good book. It is about true stories of miracles. Two ladies were coming from a church retreat. They started driving and a storm came. The driver could not see the road. She told the other lady to pray. The driver heard God say, “Look for a light.” She did. They ended up at a lady’s house. She welcomed them. She invited them to join her for lunch. The next day, they got back on the road. They found out that a terrible accident had occurred. They said to one another, “That could have been us.” God is good; God keeps us safe.

Easter Vacation  
By Jeff

On my vacation, we went to the beach. The Friday before Easter, we started loading the car. We hoped we didn’t forget anything. The kids could not sleep Friday night. We got up on Saturday, and we went to the beach. When we got there, we unloaded the car. Later that night, we still forgot some stuff. So, we all went to town. We tried to figure out what we were going to eat for all our meals for the week. We tried to get some snacks to eat. We rented the house from Saturday to Saturday. On Friday, we decided to come home early, so we packed the car and came home.
Makeda’s Story—My Life as a Slave

By Keira

This is Keaira’s first installment of a fictional story, inspired by a friend and a painting, and researched on the internet. She loves to write and is deeply moved by the history of Africans and their coming to the American continent. Bonita Simpson is pleased to be her tutor.

It’s 1750 … it’s cold and wet, and I think it’s raining outside, but I don’t know because I don’t really know where I am. Does it always sound like this here … where ever here is … it’s really dark and quiet, but I think I hear other voices in the room or where ever I am.

“Mom? Dad?” I keep calling my parents, but I get no reply. “Mom? Dad?” I say it again, and still no answer. But all of a sudden, I hear heavy feet stomping, so I stop screaming for them and the foot steps stop. I can’t hear my parents’ voices when I call out, so that means they are not with me on this unknown trip.

I am not really clear on what happened. All I can gather is that I and my people were celebrating my birthday and everything was fine … we were dancing and eating and drinking … then everything went dark. After that something or someone happened and now I am here. So, what happened to my people and my parents?

I would like to know where they are and who or what took theM from me. I want to know what is going on. Right now, all I see is darkness turning into a bright yellow light. Where am I? It’s all clear... it’s the sunlight … it is getting clear.

I am in some unknown world and place. All I see are strangers and people that I don’t know and have never seen before. This man keeps pushing me outside. But, it can’t be me. It must be someone else. I am still home at my birthday celebration. I will watch from inside me.

As soon as “she” walks outside, “she” sees her parents in a cage and runs to it and hugs them through the bars and gives them kisses and is so happy to see them. They call her “Makeda.” But as soon as they are reunited, they are torn apart. Makeda (that is MY name, but that girl can’t be me because I am over here watching) is taken into a different area in the building where the women are bathing and is told to wash up and get dressed, because they have to get pretty for the selling. If you don’t look your best, you would not get sold and that would be a bad thing. They said it would take at least two months to sell the ones that weren’t bought or they would get hanged, because they took up too much space since a fresh boat of slaves would come every day.

“Hey you! Wash up now! If you do not wash up, I will whip you, and you don’t want to get whipped, do you?” yells someone. Makeda says, “Don’t yell at me. I heard you the first time.” “Don’t talk back,” whispers one of the women. “They will just whip you.”
**Easter**

By Perfecta

Easter Sunday was my birthday. On this day, I went to the church. After church, my family and I went to Golden Corral to eat. The Saturday before Easter, my daughter, Mari, had a party for her daughter. Mari and Paula cooked. They made mole and tamales. I made capirotada. My daughter, Alma, helped me make the bread. Then, I cut bread and cooked water, added tomato, three green chilies, two cloves of garlic, cinnamon, brown sugar, cheese, and cumin. We took the bread to my daughter’s house for the family party.

**Easter**

By Matilde

The day of Easter is a holiday that we as little kids celebrated. On the day of Easter, we have a family gathering. We all get to see each other. We have a nice dinner together and pray for the food that has been put on the table for us to feast on. Then, we hide the eggs which are filled with candy. The kids have fun on Easter day. At the end, each kid looks over the candy they found.

**Washington, D.C.**

By Sharon

My favorite place to go is Washington, D.C. I love to go to the zoo, because I like looking at the animals.

I like going to the monuments to try to walk up the stairs. I go to see my grandson, sister and brother, because I miss them so much.
Thomas Edison

By Beatriz

Thomas Edison once said, “Genius is ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration.” Thomas Alva Edison was born on February 11, 1847 in Milan, Ohio. Edison was the last son of Samuel, who was an exiled political activist in Canada, and Nancy, a school teacher. At a very young age, Edison suffered from scarlet fever and an infection in both ears, a disease that would eventually leave him almost deaf to adulthood, although this was not the only reason for his hearing loss. In his youth, while conducting an experiment on a train, he suffered an accident, and his ears were injured more.

In 1845, the family moved to Port Huron, Michigan, a place where Edison attended public school for about three months. His mother quickly removed him from school and taught him at home, because his teacher considered him hyperactive, prone to distraction, and categorized him as a “crazy and difficult” child. At age 11, Edison developed an independent process of self-education, which would serve him throughout his life.

When Edison was 12 years old, he persuaded his parents to allow him to sell newspapers to the passengers along the Great Railroad Trunk and began publishing his own little newspaper called, “Great Trunk Herald.” The articles were a hit with the passengers, which demonstrated his vision and ability for business. In 1869 at 22 years old, Edison developed his first invention in the city of New York — “the universal printer of the action” that synchronized several transactions of common tickers. The Gold Company Stock Telegraph liked it so much that they paid him about $40,000.00 for the rights. This gave him the opportunity to abandon his job as a telegrapher and dedicate himself full-time to his inventions.

Thomas A. Edison is credited with more than 1,000 patented inventions that contributed greatly to the development of the United States and the world. Here is a list of the top ten: Quadruplex Telegraph, light bulb, coal microphone, kinetoscope, rechargeable/alkaline batteries, phonograph, phonograph cylinders, polygraph, electricity distribution system, and industrial research laboratory.

Edison’s popularity became very large. In 1927, he was appointed a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and in the following year, President Coolidge gave him a gold medal. On October 18, 1931 in West Orange, New Jersey, Edison died of complications of diabetes.
Congratulations for Outstanding Achievement!

Kudos to Inorina for studying hard and passing the Social Studies part of the GED!

Way to go Emma for earning a medal on May 10, 2017 for Shuffleboard in the Senior Games at the Senior Enrichment Center!

High five to Lorena for achieving her long-time goal of passing the entire battery of tests to earn her GED!