



September 2020

Tutor Tips

A monthly publication of the Moore County
Literary Council



Dear Tutors, volunteers,
and lovers of literacy,

Albert Einstein once said, “**In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.**” The past six months have tested our patience, our pocketbooks, and have had us re-considering our normal, everyday routines. But it has also ushered in opportunity that should not go unspoken. For some of you, you embraced digital tutoring by learning how to use FaceTime or Zoom. Because my computer literacy is average at best, I know how daunting a task it was for you! **KUDOS TO YOU!**

Here at MCLC, we have used the slower days as an opportunity to better organize the lobby area, update our files, and we have taken some time to consider small ways we can make the one-to-one tutoring program even more effective, especially where data collection and reporting is concerned. Last but not least, we seized the opportunity to bring two new faces on board: **Diane Young** will be assisting part-time in the office, and **Laura Mullen**, who is working on a Master's Degree from Liberty University, will be an intern with us this fall in Adult Literacy, in particularly ESL. Please stop by and meet both of them!

I am VERY happy to tell you that we are re-opening for tutors and students, but there's a catch—see page 2 for more information; and later this month we will participate in a **Zoom meeting** (see page 3) to touch base and share our tutoring experiences over the summer (if we had any!). I'll also introduce our **October Professional Development** for the new and improved Quarterly Progress Reporting.

I look forward to a return to what was familiar and predictable, but until then, let us look for those little opportunities that will make it worthwhile in the end.

~Until next month, Susan

**WELCOME
BACK!**

Did you hear? Kathy McGougan is back! Kathy worked with MCLC a few years ago and has returned to coordinate our Moore County Schools Reading Initiative!



TUTORING RESUMES



... *Well, sort of!*

I am VERY happy to inform you that we will re-open the **Read Moore Center** to tutors and students beginning **Monday, September 14!**

HOWEVER, due to our ongoing efforts to comply with health and safety measures, we will need to do things a little differently for awhile (see the link below):

**Temperatures will be taken and health assessment questions will be asked before anyone enters the main area of the center;*

We will operate at 50% capacity, therefore, you will need to **reserve your tutor room in advance each week;*

Masks **MUST be worn at all times by all participants in the center;*

**Social distancing should be practiced at all times;*

**Plexiglass shields have been placed on all tutor tables and should be utilized throughout the tutoring session;*

**All tutor rooms, as with all areas of the center, will be sanitized after each session and throughout the day;*

IF YOU ARE COMFORTABLE with a return to in-person tutoring, reach out to your student to confirm a day and time, then call the office to **reserve** your tutor room **ASAP!** Please inform the office of **cancellations ASAP!**

IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE with a return to in-person tutoring, please continue to “meet” via Zoom or FaceTime, or consider an outdoor space that is mutually agreeable. Just keep a record of your hours!

For our complete re-opening protocol, **CLICK HERE**



We have chairs!



Prefer to tutor outside? You are welcome to use our outdoor spaces under one of our very nice shade trees! We also have a pic-nic table



Writing prompt for September.....

Apples

Reflection time! Help your student submit a paragraph about apple picking, baking apple pies, their favorite variety, or anything else related to apples! Don't forget to submit it for publication!



September's Homophones:



Summer update: Despite restrictions, July brought us a *new* student in Adult Basic Education AND several of our current students invested **27.25 hours** on computers at the Read Moore Center's computer lab! Please encourage your student to keep up their hard work by utilizing one of our educational computer programs—all they need to do is call to set up an appointment!



Calling all tutors!

New Fiscal Year Zoom Conference!

Who? **All Tutors** in the One-to-One Adult Literacy Program

When? **<Select ONE of the following:>**

Tuesday evening, September — at 6:00pm

Wednesday morning, September — at 9:00pm

Wednesday afternoon, September — at 2:00pm

How? Zoom! In a few days, I will send you an email where all you have to do is click on the link for the meeting you choose to attend! *Note: you WILL need a camera and audio on your computer.*

Agenda: Introductions; “Covid” tutoring etiquette; monthly learning strategies (homophones and writing prompts); & our upcoming Professional Development!





Ask Susan...

I just started tutoring a new ESL student, but I'm not sure he can do the basics - like write his address. What should I do?

Whenever we hear that a storm is coming, we immediately make sure our emergency resources- our “**survival kit**”- is well stocked: batteries, candles, bottled water. But for many of our students, their “survival kit” may lack necessary items: how to write and read an address correctly, how to identify and count paper money and coins, or how to navigate a bus route. Can you imagine the frustration at arriving for an appointment only to discover you misread the street name?

You will get to know the **needs** of your student far better than anyone. If you suspect that their basic, everyday survival skills need a little help, try this fun activity so that you can take an informal assessment of their writing, vocabulary, and spelling needs (*this is also a good first or second meeting idea to break the ice!*) Ask your student to draw a map of their street and label their house (with address!), direct them to draw a pharmacy (do they know what it is?), what do they buy there? (can they effectively write these words?). Ask them to draw a park and label activities that are happening in the park (soccer? tennis? swing sets?) **You get the idea!** It can be as formal or informal as you choose— and it will open the door for interesting conversation!

Take just a few minutes from each session to practice these basic items before you dive into the lesson of the day! Remember, repetition is the key! Then you can rest a little easier knowing your student has the supplies he, or she, needs immediately. Here are several **survival kit necessities** everyone should know how to read and write:

