

April 2016

Tutor-in-Touch

 **LITERACY VOLUNTEERS**
of Rochester

Winter Conference

This year's conference occurred on Saturday, March 19th and was held at RIT. We started the day with a very interesting presentation from Kathy Houghton, Director of Program Services for Literacy New York. Kathy provided us with information about the impact of low literacy skills, not only to the individual but also to our society. She also shared with us the value, monetary and social, of the work you do with your student. I'm sure most of had a passive knowledge of the information, but Kathy brought it to life and highlighted the impact to all of us and the impact we make. If you missed out on the presentation and would like to read more about the literacy levels of American adults, the data can be found at <http://skills.oecd.org>.



Other topics covered at the conference included Math Sense, Using Visual Aids, USAlearns.org, Citizenship and Making Sense of Decoding and Spelling.

On-Line Resources

Have you always wanted to see a veteran tutor in action so you can see how a lesson is taught? We finally have a resource that will give you that opportunity with a video series known as **Best Practices for Tutoring Adults in Reading: Video Collection** . It is a collection of 56 videos, and was produced by San José Public Library's Partners in Reading program and Santa Clara City Library's Read Santa Clara program.

This online training was made possible in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

The videos include tutor/learner pairs demonstrating the evidence-based reading strategies in clear, easy-to-replicate segments. The

focus is on fluency, decoding and phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, and comprehension. The videos are skill specific so you can use them to tackle a specific learner need.



On-Line Resources Cont.

If one of your student's needs is to improve decoding and spelling skills, we have a curriculum to address those skills.

Through the Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS), **Making Sense of Decoding and Spelling: An Adult Reading Course of Study** is an evidence-based course of study designed to teach adult learners to decode and

spell words accurately and fluently. The curriculum includes lesson plans and a student activity book, which are both available in our library. You can also access the materials at

http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/making_sense .

Need ideas on different instructional strategies and techniques? The video series mentioned on the previous page has a collection that includes demonstrations of different strategies and instructional techniques. All of the videos are on YouTube and can be accessed at

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZfx1RWm8nvj04b5rjxxXa-AcUYJWh5YI

If you would like to learn more about the curriculum and videos, we would be happy to instruct you in the use of the materials.

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bat mat cat pat hat rat fat sat	an man can ran pan van fan Dan
 -am [æm] 3	 -ap [æp] 4
am jam ham Pam ram Sam	cap nap lap rap map tap gap clap

What's in the Library?

Oakland Readers is a series of short books produced by the Oakland Library's Second Start Adult Literacy Program in the 1990s. The books are produced in collaboration with participants in the program and include their poetry and narratives. Part of the motivation of the production of the books is the fact that many adult literacy books do not include narratives and scenarios that are relevant to many participants of adult literacy programs. By including personal narratives of literacy program participants, these books have become popular with readers across the country. The books were funded through a series of grants.

There are thirteen books in the OAKLAND READERS series. Four of the books are at a 1-2 reading level; two

are at a 2-3 reading level; three are at a 3-4 reading level; and four are at a 4-5 reading level. Many tutors say their learners find the series very enjoyable. The Oakland Readers are on Case 10 Shelf 4.



Save the date

**Wednesday, June 15th, 6PM
Annual Awards Ceremony.
Al Sigi Conference Room, 1000 Elmwood Avenue**

It's Year-End Assessment Time



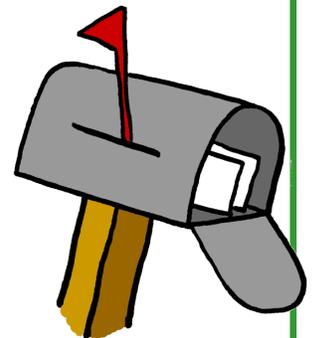
We recently sent post-cards to students alerting them of the need to schedule their year-end assessment appointment. It is imperative that all students who have more than 12 hours of instruction complete a year-end assessment. Not only does it give us

the information requested by funders, but it gives you and the student information. Many students are quite surprised on how well they do from just a few hours of instruction. Once the assessment is completed, the results are sent to the tutor.



REMINDER:

The normal hours of operation for our library are 9AM to 4PM, Monday through Friday, but call to see if night hours are available. An after-hours book return mailbox is located at the north end of the building (the end facing Elmwood Ave).



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