



Tutor Connection

Winter 2014/15 Edition

Tri-County Literacy Council is a community-based, non-profit organization that enriches both community and individuals by addressing literacy needs

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real Spirit of Christmas.”

Calvin Coolidge

By Carol Anne Maloney, Coordinator of Volunteers

Christmas Open House

Christmas is a time to be thankful for everything good in life. At the Literacy Council this is an easy task. We are fortunate to have so many generous volunteers who give of their time and heart to others. Without their efforts our community and agency would not be the same. As actor Morgan Freeman says in the movie *Evan Almighty* “How do you change the world? One random act of kindness at a time.” This is what our volunteers do weekly.

To celebrate the season we will be having a **Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 11, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** The theme this year is “Everything Sweet”. I hope you will join in the merriment. Bring a dessert, and enjoy something sweet to eat.



Christmas Literacy Activities

Christmas can be a busy season with many different types of errands needing to done. Following are some real-life activities you might want to try with your student:

- Make a To-do List or budget
- Price compare gift items, using flyers
- Read a Christmas recipe, short story, or crafting instructions
- Write a Christmas letter or New Year’s resolution
- Send an electronic card

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

William Arthur Ward

*“The man who
removes a
mountain begins by
carrying away small
stones.”*

Chinese Proverb

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tricountyliteracycouncil.ca

Visit our website
regularly; to learn about
the latest FREE courses
being offered.

Tea & Talk for Tutors

In an effort to provide more support for one-on-one tutors, we have initiated Tea & Talk for Tutors. It is a forum where tutors have the opportunity to meet with one another, share experiences, successes and challenges. It is also a place to introduce new resources and different teaching strategies.

During our last meeting in November, one tutor mentioned how much genuine praise was a motivating factor for her student, particularly when she took the time to explain what she liked about the work completed. One of the biggest battles we have when teaching adults with serious literacy issues is dealing with negative self-image. Many students have been teased and taunted all of their lives, and they feel rotten about themselves. Even when they succeed, they are not comfortable with themselves. People with high self-esteem take risks more easily than those with low self-esteem. Our students take a huge risk when they decide to enter a literacy program.

Although no one can build self-esteem for another, we can create a climate in which adult learners can develop confidence in their own potential which underlies self-esteem. Such environments encourage learners to make choices

which they are responsible for; set clearly defined limits and achievable goals; as well as focus on strengths while reframing negative thoughts. Such an atmosphere optimizes the chance that adult learners will feel good about themselves while learning. Focusing on achieving small goals helps student reframe their learning process experience.

Giving Tuesday – December 2nd

Giving Tuesday is a new Canadian movement that celebrates the start of the giving season. This year Tri-County Literacy will be celebrating this day by giving away free coffee, tea, or hot chocolate to students and volunteers. Visit the [United Way Facebook page](#), to learn what other community organizations are doing.



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