

Literacy of Northern New York

St. Lawrence County
Spring 2009

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Recognition Celebration is a Great Success!

Our annual recognition celebration was held on February 21. We had a big crowd - 21 students and 15 tutors, along with some of the students' family members. Our potluck lunch was delicious and we all enjoyed everything, from dishes from far away places supplied by our ESL students to wonderful desserts. Entertainment was provided by a student from Potsdam College, Jeff Lyons, who played the guitar and sang some American folk music. Everyone enjoyed meeting someone new through a game - "We have a lot in common," which involved speaking to someone you didn't know and finding out (in 5 minutes) how many things the two of you had in common. For example, some found they both owned the same kind of car; others discovered they both enjoyed the same

kind of music. We heard several people request that we hold a get-together twice a year, so we'll consider doing that.



Everyone celebrating ...



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Yard Sale
May 23

Donate your unwanted items to us.

New Tutors Have Joined Our Program

As of March 28, we have 14 new tutors! We are delighted to add them to our available volunteers as the need for our services continues to grow all the time. The new members of our team include Jenna Brown, Brent Chamberlain, Lauren Coakley, Meagan Compeau, Roger Cunningham, Raelyn Erdner, Laverne Freeman, Brad Lambert, Sara Lincoln,

Malcolm McCormick, Jane Plastino, Katie Smith, Wendy Turnbull and Scott Wakefield. By the end of March, they were all matched with a student. Welcome to all of you!

New tutors



Fourteen new tutors graduated in March 2009. They practiced the reading and ESOL techniques they will be using with students during the five-week training.

Tutor training



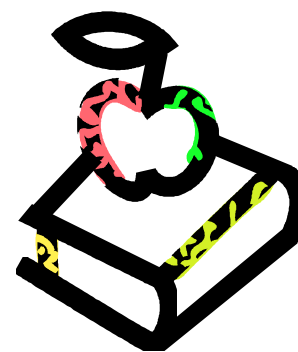
Can you spare any more of your time?

Since new students are constantly asking for help, we always need more tutors than we have available, even though we try to train 20-25 new volunteers each year. If any of you would consider taking an additional student, please contact us at 265-0194 or via e-mail: lvastlaw@hotmail.com

Tutor hours for the Period Jan. 1 to March 31 now due

If you worked with a student (or students) during the period January-March 2009, please send us your report on your time with your student. We'd like to know the number of hours you were with your student, and also please let us know about any of your student's achievements, including (but not limited to) getting a job, getting a job

promotion, attending any kind of training, getting a driver's license, enrolling in any educational program, starting to participate in community activities, meeting with their child's teachers, etc. You may choose to go to our website www.proliteracynny.org and to click on "send notes/tutor hours" to submit the report, or you can call or e-mail us. If you have already submitted this information, THANK YOU!



Additional Training Planned for Tutors

Periodically we like to offer our tutors an opportunity to expand their skills by providing in-service training. We usually hold this on a Saturday morning in Potsdam. Topics we're currently considering include suggestions for basic literacy techniques and ESL idea exchange (tutors contribute and demonstrate their personal favorite lesson ideas). PLEASE send us an e-mail (lvastlaw@hotmail.com) or call us (265-0194) with ideas for in-service topics as well as your thoughts on the location and

time/day for this activity. We realize that Potsdam is a bit far for some of you to drive, but it's central for the county. Also, would you prefer a weekday evening? We need your input, as we want to make this relevant, interesting, and accessible to as many people as possible. We welcome your ideas for in-service topics, as we want to provide help for the problems you are experiencing out there in the trenches.

Computers Available for your Students

The Ogdensburg Library has generously donated a few used computers to our organization. If your student would benefit from having a computer, we will give them away on a first come, first served basis. Please note that as far as we know, these are in working order. Students must be told that we are not responsible for maintenance or repair of

these computers. Please call our office if your student would like a computer and monitor. Unfortunately, no printers are available.

Yard Sale

Along with many other non-profit agencies, we have had our funding cut in recent months. Our state Education Department grant was reduced by \$13,500 and we lost all United Way funding for our St. Lawrence County program. Consequently, we are seeking ways to raise some money. A Literacy of Northern NY Board member will be holding a yard sale on May 23. All proceeds will be donated to the literacy program. We would welcome items to include in the sale, including books, toys (in good condition), furniture, household

goods, children's clothing and decorative items. We are not accepting adult clothing. If you have anything to donate, please call the Literacy office (265-0194). If there's no answer, please leave a message.

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Phone:
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Helping adults with
reading and
speaking English

We're on the Web!
www.proliteracyyny.org

News

Jutta Fitzsimon's student, JS received a grade point average of 3.8 during this past semester at Canton College.

Citizenship

We received a copy of the 2009 edition of Citizenship Passing the Test, the Workbook, and the Teacher's Guide. It is available at the literacy office.

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