



OPENING THE WORLD THROUGH WORDS

# Literacy Matters

A Quarterly Newsletter Presented by

Oakland Literacy Council

Summer 2014



## WILD ABOUT READING

Fur, feathers and fins! You'll see it all when you participate in the Oakland Literacy Council's new fund raising event. Our first **Wild About Reading** walk will take place September 6, 2014 at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak.

A couple of our folks (Judy Lindstrom and Julie Hoensheid) let their imaginations run wild one day. Always on the prowl for ideas to support our efforts to help adults learn to read, they came up with the de-tails for the event, outlined in the cages – oops – boxes below.

Although OLC had a 20% increase in enrollments in 2013, there is still an illiteracy rate of 12 –15% in Oakland County- (that's 146,000 to 183,000 people!)

Our trek to help overcome this rate is ongoing. Funds raised from **Wild About Reading** will go towards training for our tutors, specialized reading materials designed for adult learners, testing administration, and workshops for both tutors and students – and all to provide free instruction to serve this population in need of reading skills. So join our herd at the zoo to aid this effort.

### Bird's Eye View

#### Wild About Reading –

a charity walk around the Detroit Zoo to raise funds and awareness to support literacy for Oakland County people in need.

**Saturday, September 6, 2014**

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Early Registration – Before August 20<sup>th</sup>:

Adults: \$25

Children (5–14 years old): \$15

Children under 5: Free

Registration opening soon!

Check our website for details:

[www.oaklandliteracy.com](http://www.oaklandliteracy.com)

### De-tails, De-tails

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. if you did not pre-register. The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. Your registration includes free parking and admission to the zoo before it opens to the public.

Adults who register before August 20<sup>th</sup> will receive a free official **Wild About Reading** t-shirt!

You will have full access to the Detroit Zoo until 5 p.m.

Family and friends who come with you are welcome, but they must also register.

If you can't attend, you can still donate to this worthy cause by calling 248.253.1617. or contacting [info@oaklandliteracy.com](mailto:info@oaklandliteracy.com)

And finally, consider...

**The joy of helping make someone's dream come true!**

## A few words...



In our youth, we all experienced the “joys of June”. The anticipation of waking to mornings without an alarm clock buzzing or paper deadlines or hours of sitting in those unforgiving school chairs.

But, as we matured we realized that our minds didn’t shut down in June only to reawaken after Labor Day when the first school bell pealed. We experienced the importance of learning each and every day-- regardless of what the calendar said--and taking what we learned and applying it to whatever jobs or tasks we encountered.

To our Students: we are pleased that you found your way to the Oakland Literacy Council, that you are taking this journey seriously (whether you are just starting, are in the middle or near graduation) and that you remember to congratulate yourself for the progress you are making and will continue to make.

To our Volunteer Tutors: by now you’ve figured out that this process is also a journey for you. As a former tutor I started for one reason, but as I became more invested in the progress of my students and more involved with other aspects of the OLC my initial reason fell by the wayside and I wholeheartedly embraced the notion that this is “a labor of love”.

To our 300+ teams of Students and Tutors: We applaud your achievements, accomplishments and goals.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the “Picnic in Park” 30th Anniversary celebration on June 21st, (see page 9) as we all come together to applaud the efforts of the entire Oakland Literacy Council “Family”.

Happy Summer!

Judy Lindstrom *Judy*

*“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”*

Benjamin Franklin

**In honor of our 30th anniversary** we have received words of praise from our Michigan political leaders. Our sincere thanks to board member Ann Manning for her part in this venture.

From Governor Snyder we received a Special Tribute with the following: "on behalf of the people of Michigan, I sincerely thank.." "I extend my gratitude, please accept my best wishes for continued success and prosperity in all of your future endeavors".

From Senator George Pappageorge (13th district) and Representative McReady (40th district) we received a Declaration of Special Tribute with the following: "It is both a pleasure and a distinct privilege to recognize OLC on celebrating its 30th anniversary...a great milestone comes from the hard work, commitment, and perseverance,... it is always a pleasure to honor such outstanding organizations,... "the OLC has shown exemplary dedication to serving Oakland County,"

And finally from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners a Proclamation that states: "We commend the Oakland Literacy Council for the valuable service it provides, and for the dedication of its volunteers who have made this contribution possible for the past thirty years."

We are indeed GRATEFUL for the recognition!



## Country Spotlight: Italy



Country:	Italy
Location:	Southern Europe
Capital:	Rome
Population:	61.3 million
Size:	116,305 square miles (about the size of Arizona)
Primary Language:	Italian
Climate:	The climate varies by region. Winters are cold and rainy in the north, cool around Rome, and mild in the south. Summers in the south can be very hot. The rest of the country usually experiences moderate summers.
Greetings:	The general greeting is a handshake with avoidance of crossing other people's handshakes. When a man and woman are introduced to each other, the man bows his head slightly and waits for the woman to extend her hand first. Close friends often greet each other by hugging or kissing on both cheeks—or rather, by brushing cheeks as they kiss the air. Friends and family members say Ciao (“Hi” or “Goodbye”) as an informal; greeting.
Eating:	Italians eat with the fork in the left hand and knife in the right. Hands are kept above the table; placing them in the lap is improper. One does not leave the table until everyone has finished. Most families get together for supper often around 7 or 8 pm in the north and 8:30 or 9:30 pm in the south. When eating with guests, a meal may last up to four hours. Dinner conversations often includes soccer, politics, family matters, business, and local events. Guests do not volunteer to help clean up.
Holidays:	Religious and national holidays include New Year's Day; Epiphany (Jan 6); Easter (including Easter Monday); Liberation Day (Apr 25); Labor Day (May 1); the Anniversary of the Republic (June 2); the assumption of the Virgin Mary (Aug 15); All Saints Day (Nov 1); Immaculate Conception (Dec 8); Christmas and St Stephen's Day (Dec 26).

*CultureGrams 2009 World Edition. Provo, Utah: ProQuest. (2009)*

Our cookbook, ***Sharing our Best*** includes a number of Italian recipes including: Chicken Sicilian, Pasta Fagioli, Guazzetto, and Chicken Tetrazzini.

It makes a wonderful gift. Pick up your copy today!

Student Alessio Felice says Italy is a really complicated country but the people are very friendly and funny. The weather is great and the food too. He misses being able to walk in a downtown area and says he forgets why he has legs being in the US! He also misses the historical buildings, public transportation and buying food at the weekly neighborhood farmers markets.

Student Laura Paolucci is from Pisa home of the famous leaning tower. Laura shares that Pisa celebrates a yearly feast called Luminara which takes place on the eve (June 16) of the patron Saint Ranieri's day. The whole city transforms itself to a fairy-tale setting with buildings, churches, parapets and the leaning tower illuminated. The event ends with a spectacular firework show. Laura “can't wait to be there!” She also misses walking in her hometown and stopping by the bakeries to buy fresh bread, cakes and cookies. Her favorite bread is focaccia that is often topped with olive oil and salt. She says it tastes “SOOOO good and if you are lucky you can eat it warm, right out of the oven.”



# 30 TUTORING IDEAS FOR SUMMER

1. Create and write a wish list of things to do this summer. Don't forget to include reading!
2. Make a chart to keep track of all the books you read this summer.
3. Start a journal with your student. Take turns writing back and forth in it all summer long. You can even do this by mail or e-mail.
4. Compare two items using a Venn diagram, (see page 116 in your Litstart book for ideas).
5. List all the ice cream flavors you can think of. Now put them in alphabetical order.
6. Play word games: How many smaller words can you find in the word *watermelon*? Make a list of words to describe fireworks. Find words that rhyme.
7. If your student is going on a trip, have him/her mark the travel route on a map.
8. Make a copy of a short comic strip after whiting out the words. Have your student write what the characters are saying.
9. Make a list of summer words.
10. Print the lyrics to a song, practice reading them and then sing the song together. You can use simple folk songs like Yankee Doodle, This Old Man, Three Blind Mice, Row, Row, Row Your Boat, or download lyrics from more popular tunes.
11. Pick an important news event from another city, state, or country. Find as much information on the topic as possible – read newspapers, listen to the radio, and watch TV news. Talk about what you learned.
12. Start a round-robin story. Write a beginning sentence, and then ask your student to add to it. Continue back and forth until it has an ending. This can be an on-going project.
13. Follow along with an audio book.
14. Analyze a topic by mapping it, (see page 118 in your Litstart book)
15. Email with your student to practice grammar and writing.
16. Make appointments for regular telephone calls to practice speaking and listening.
17. Start a summer scrapbook. Include souvenirs of any trips your student takes, photos, ticket stubs, and projects you work on during the summer. Write a short description below each item.
18. Create a word search or crossword puzzle for your student, (try using <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker>).
19. Have a virtual meeting on Skype.
20. Take a field trip to a local park. Write or talk about the things you see.
21. Play the game *20 Questions*.
22. Write and read an Experience Story with your student, (see page 110 in your Litstart book).
23. Cut a paragraph into sentences. Have your student practice sequencing by putting the story back in order. For lower-level students, cut one sentence into individual words and have them do the same.
24. Play *Hangman* with your student- use vocabulary or words about summer.
25. Practice saying tongue twisters.
26. Help your student create a family tree.
27. Play *Concentration* matching words and their contractions, ( I am/I'm it is/it's, etc.)
28. Use Scrabble tiles to create words.
29. Ask your student to teach you a lesson about something he/she is interested in.
30. Write and read a haiku poem about summer.



## From the Water Cooler

*My student is only interested in working on specific projects such as having me edit her church bulletin, write her resume, or help her memorize the answers to her cosmetology exam. I don't mind helping her with these things; however, I feel we are losing emphasis on literacy by only focusing on the project.*

The core of the OLC one-on-one tutoring program is to assist students in increasing reading, writing and listening skills. They are students of OLC because their reading and/or listening levels are below 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which is below standard for an adult.

The tutor in conjunction with the student needs to develop and guide lesson plans that provide activities and exercises related to improving reading, writing and listening. Learning and mastering these skills will be the basis for future success in other endeavors that require the use of those abilities. While work on personal goals is also a part of tutoring, it should align with the lesson plan and not be the only activity.

One of the missions of the OLC is creating learners for life, which is good to keep in mind. Focusing on a singular task or project does not address the main problem our students have of improving low reading, writing and listening levels. In these situations, the tutor needs to refocus the tutoring sessions to the original intent of addressing literacy. Please call the OLC office if you need assistance.



## Tutoring Tips!

Tutor, **Cherie Rolfe**, and her student, Sarah, are working on increasing her listening skills. They use excerpts from the NPR program "Tell Me More" during their lessons. They listen to the story and follow along with the transcript.

Spring break didn't stop **Cherie Rolfe's** student from learning and practicing English! Cherie loaned her student her copy of **Ever After: A Cinderella Story**, along with the following fun assignment. When they met, they had a great time discussing the movie, the story and the vocabulary!

Here is the assignment:

Watch the movie **Ever After: A Cinderella Story** on DVD. It might help to watch it in 15-20 minute segments.

To help with comprehension, turn on the English subtitles: **From the Main Menu, choose "Language Selections."**

**Then, from "Captions and Subtitles," select "English."**

**Then, select "Resume Film."** Press the pause button when you need to. You can also back up when you need to.

How is this version of the story different from other Cinderella stories you've seen?

### Tutor Tip- Words with Friends

Tutor **Sheila Nero** shares this tip:

I've had great success using the board game Words With Friends with my student. She gained confidence and now wants to buy the game to play with her family. We don't keep score--we just spell and then keep a log of our words. We also use the word in a sentence as part of our turn.



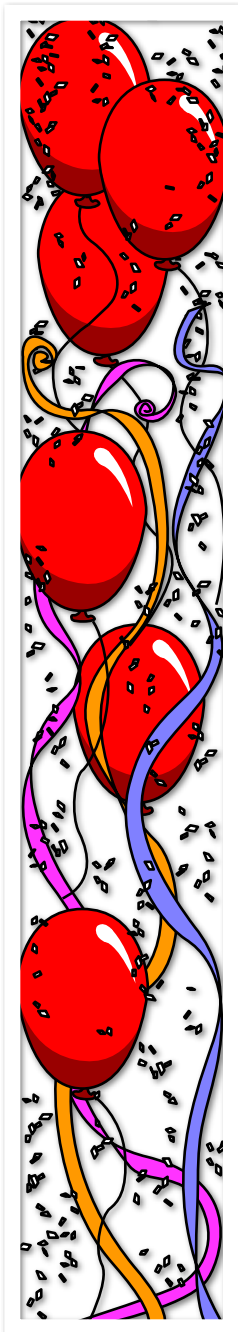
Our Tutor Tune-Up in April turned out to be both enjoyable and practical! Russell Moore presented a hands-on, interactive workshop for tutors which focused on decoding and comprehension. During this session, tutors worked together to produce paint sample word family sliders, contraction "folders," and create-a-word file folders. They also engaged in Box Front Word Play.

Tutors also explored several terrific iPad Apps for reading and word work. These are a lot of fun and great for reinforcement and practice. Below are some of Russell's favorites for you to explore and try!

- Word Wizard●Spell Pro●Chicktionary●Hooked On Words●
- Story Creator●PhotoCard●Over●Evernote●

# Oakland Literacy Council

## Student Goal Achievements - 2014



January 2014	ND learned how to text this month...
January 2014	SK learned what to do in case of emergencies.
February 2014	KS helped her daughter open a savings account.
February 2014	EP finished reading Little Women.
February 2014	BC filled out job applications.
February 2014	YK met her child's teacher and was comfortable dialoguing with the teacher.
February 2014	JH finished reading The Good Earth and The Lottery.
February 2014	YL ordered lunch at a Mexican restaurant.
February 2014	KK gave a speech to a Ford Executive VP.
February 2014	JK volunteered at her son's classroom.
February 2014	WU completed her resume.
March 2014	SJ GRADUATED from OLC.
March 2014	JK attended a meeting of the moms in her son's class.
March 2014	CI got a library card.
March 2014	CA completed reading 8 page setup instructions for table saw cutoff fixture.
March 2014	YJ completed reading first book in English: Charlotte's Web.
March 2014	MS passed the Citizenship test.
March 2014	ZF wrote an introduction letter for a job interview.
March 2014	MK attended three conversation groups.
March 2014	BR wrote a movie review.
April 2014	MH worked the Bookstock sale.
April 2014	BP worked the Bookstock sale.
April 2014	NM obtained a library card and checked out her first book.

*What you get by achieving your goals is not as important  
as what you become by achieving your goals.*

*Henry David Thoreau*



## Kroger Card Enrollment/Re-Enrollment

The Kroger Community Rewards Program provides money to help communities grow and prosper. They donate money to approved organization based upon members' purchases. All you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card. There is no cost to you. Oakland Literacy Council receives money when you shop by you simply enrolling in the Community Rewards Program.

Each April 1, Kroger requires our members to re-enroll in their community rewards program. You must re-enroll for Kroger to continue sending Oakland Literacy Council a percentage of your shopping dollars. It's just a few simple steps to keep your shopping dollars working for Oakland Literacy Council:

**To re-enroll** your card, go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)

Click "sign-in"

Put in your email address and password that you used to enroll your card.

Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization.

Choose the correct organization – 82755– Oakland Literacy Council

Click Enroll.

You are now enrolled for the May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 year of Kroger Community Rewards.

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## TEST CHANGES



The Oakland Literacy Council receives significant state funding for our literacy program. To qualify for the funding, we must test students using state approved tests. We select which tests to use for our program based upon the state approved tests and the goals of our program.

We currently administer two types of tests: 1) reading and 2) listening (for ESL students). These tests are used to determine if a student is eligible for OLC services, measure progress while an active student and to graduate a student from our program. They are an important tool for the student, tutor and OLC.

Effective July 1, 2014, there are changes to the tests approved by the state. As a result, OLC will be using a new listening test. This will affect all new and current ESL students. In addition, test changes will also occur to align all OLC students to a reading test in the series called CASAS Life and Work.

These changes may require current students to be review tested in late summer or early fall. This coincides with the beginning of the state program year of July 1, 2014 when students are normally tested each year. Students will be contacted if testing is required.

## WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?



Oakland Literacy Council is like any other organization and uses common terms and acronyms for their business.

You may find on occasion you do not know what we are talking about. Please be assured we do know what we are talking about.

Below is a list of terms we use regularly in the course of our business.

There will be a quiz later so study these closely!

ABE	Adult Basic Education – term used to describe the services/program for students born in the United States.
Basic	Adult Basic Education – term used to describe the services/program for students born in the United States.
Bookstock	Annual book sale at Laurel Park Place in early May each year. OLC participates in the sale and preparation leading up to the event which starts each September.
Breakfast Club	Gathering of tutors in which tutoring ideas and issues are shared. In addition, good food is on the menu. These meetings occur 3 – 4 times a year.
CASAS	Tests used by OLC to determine reading and listening levels of students. CASAS is a nonprofit organization that focuses on assessment and curriculum development of basic skills for youth and adults. CASAS is used by federal and state government agencies, business and industry, community colleges, etc.
Drop	Term used to identify students and tutors who are no longer active in the program.
ESL	English as a Second Language – term used to describe the services/program for students born outside the United States.
Ex-Libris	Latin phrase meaning “from the Library of.” Our annual fall fund raising event is Ex-Libris”.
Graduation	Status of a student who has tested at the 9 <sup>th</sup> or above grade level and no longer needs OLC services. These students then usually move onto more advanced programs.
MAERS	Michigan Adult Education Reporting System – state system used to track and report all required data for state funding.
NRS	National Reporting System – federal reporting system in which the state reports required information for federal funds. It is under the umbrella of the U.S. Department of Education.
OLC	Oakland Literacy Council.
Reach for the Stars	Annual recognition event in which students, tutors and volunteers are recognized. This event normally occurs in the beginning of the year.
Recruit	A person who has expressed interest in becoming a tutor either by emailing or calling the OLC office.
Review Test	Periodic tests used to provide feedback to the student and tutor on their progress in reading and/or listening. Such tests usually occur twice a year.



## Calendar of Events

June 21, 2014, **Picnic in the Park**: Come celebrate OLC's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!  
 Saturday, June 21, 2014, 12 – 3 p.m. (Lunch served from noon to 1:45.)  
 Springdale Park, 316 Strathmore Road, Birmingham.  
 Reservations required. Call 248-253-1617 or e-mail [info@oaklandliteracy.com](mailto:info@oaklandliteracy.com) by  
 June 16, 2014  
 Parking is limited.

July 23, 2014, **Breakfast Club Picnic – A Day at the Beach!**  
 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Sylvan Shores Beach, 2761 Sylvan Shores, Waterford, MI 48328  
 Please join OLC tutor trainers Pat Ojala & Julie Hoensheid for  
 an afternoon of fun, food and information!  
 \*Please bring a small picnic dish to share and the utensils needed to serve it.\*  
 To register call or email the Council by July 21<sup>st</sup> 248-253-1617 [info@oaklandliteracy.com](mailto:info@oaklandliteracy.com)

September 6, 2014, **Wild About Reading** – see first page story.

Oct. 23, 2014, **Ex Libris**, our annual fund-raising dinner. Save the date!

(Find even more information about events, workshops, etc. on our website, [www.oaklandliteracy.com](http://www.oaklandliteracy.com))



September 6, 2014 at the  
 Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak.

**Tutors, Students, Volunteers, Friends**

Please join us for a  
**Picnic in the Park**

Celebrating Oakland Literacy Council's 30th Anniversary

Saturday, June 21, 2014 12-3 p.m. (lunch served from noon to 1:45)  
 at Springdale Park, Birmingham  
 316 Strathmore Road.....Just Follow the Signs!

Family Members are Welcome! There will be lots of  
 Food, Fun Family Activities, Surprises and our Special Recognition Event.

Reservations required. Please call 248-253-1617 or e-mail [info@oaklandliteracy.com](mailto:info@oaklandliteracy.com) by June 16, 2014  
 PARKING IS LIMITED

Special thanks to: Costco, Subway and Target  
 for supporting this event.