



OPENING THE WORLD THROUGH WORDS

Literacy Matters

A Quarterly Newsletter Presented by

Oakland Literacy Council

Fall 2015

Celebrate Words with Dr. Jacques Bailly at our 2015 Ex Libris Event

Can you spell s-u-c-c-e-s-s-?

Every fall tens of thousands of schools enroll in a community spelling bee program. Each year students clamor to participate and with luck and lots of practice and studying they hope to rise to the top. Each champion of each local spelling bee sponsored program then qualifies for participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C.

They have now crossed the threshold into the BIG TIME. These students enter a world few experience—lights, cameras, photo ops, interviews, and being televised live throughout the country. While the monetary prize for the winner is significant (over \$40,000) the students are actually doing it for the honor and distinction of saying “I am the winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee”!

Can you spell f-a-c-t-s?

The National Spelling Bee was formed in 1925 as a consolidation of numerous local spelling bees, organized by the Courier-Journal in Louisville. The winning word that year was “gladiolus.”

The purpose of the bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

It is estimated that in 2015-2016, more than 11 million students will participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. With more than 472,000 word entries, The Webster’s Third New International dictionary is the official dictionary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee—and the only one that counts in terms of spelling.

Some of the winning words in this Super Bowl of Spelling include: chiaroscuro, logorrhea, succedaneum, prospicience, pococurante, autochthonous, appoggiatura, laodicean, stromuhr, cymotrichous, guetapens, stichomythia and scherenschnitte

Can you spell e-l-u-c-u-b-r-a-t-e?

This year, we are thrilled to have **Dr. Jacques Bailly** as our keynote speaker for our Ex Libris event (Please read the info on the following page). Dr. Bailly is known as the “Pronouncer” for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This job came naturally as he was

the 1980’s champion, successfully spelling the word elucubrate. Dr. Bailly is the voice the students dream of hearing as they rise through the spelling bee ranks, and the voice that will answer all their questions as they stand on stage like “What is the definition, the part of speech, the language of origin? Are there alternate pronunciations and can you use it in a sentence?” “I always want them to get all the words right,” Dr. Bailly told *Time* magazine in 2009 about sympathizing with the entire lineup of spellers. “I think that’s a lot of the fun of the spelling bee—you root for everybody. And I try to make it clear to the spellers that I’m there to give them absolutely every possible thing that I can to help them—within some limits.”

Please join us this year as we celebrate our 26th Ex Libris dinner and the driving force of words!



A few words...



This fall I'm reminded of the following quote by Alexander Graham Bell



"When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us".

As many of you know, this past August we said "we will miss you" to long time employee and friend Julie Hoensheid. On the one hand I told her I was deeply saddened by her departure but on the other hand excited for her many possibilities.

And that is what we have with the Oakland Literacy Council--possibilities. Shari Barrick has been and is taking up the slack with her usual professional and can do attitude. We applaud Shari for taking on these extra duties while the the Oakland Literacy Council Board of Directors decides the direction of OLC. Stay tuned for new faces in our office and on our Board of Directors.

With fall as our unofficial harbinger of the holiday season may I wish you all a very early but heartfelt wish for a wonderful Thanksgiving! And a huge thank you for the many hours and support you have given the OLC this year.

Judy Lindstrom

You are cordially invited to attend the
2015 Ex Libris Annual Dinner

With keynote speaker Dr. Jacques Bailly

Thursday, October 29th

Cocktails at 6:30pm Dinner at 7:30pm
at The Village Club, 190 East Long Lake,
Bloomfield Hills MI 48304

Patron Tickets \$125 per person

Benefactor Tickets \$175 per person

For reservations please call

248-253-1617

Newcomers to America From a tutor's perspective

by tutor and creative writer Carol Foster

Can you imagine what it is like to resettle in a new country? Some of the challenges include learning a new language and culture.

When ESL students speak English to someone, they think in their native language and translate their thoughts to English. The process is reversed when someone speaks to them. They have to translate what that person said back to their native language.

The words are not only different, but many languages organize their sentences in a different word order. For example: The English sentence order is *subject / verb / object*. I like sunshine.

In Japanese, the word order is *subject / object / verb*. I sunshine like.

To make it easier to visualize what ESL students go through, read the following excerpt written in a Scottish dialect from *The Fanatic* by James Robertson:

In Scotland ye'd gang back tae yer mither's at Christmas, and phone her yince a week, bujt it was jist a way for baith o yese tae ken ye werena deid.

Everyday English translation of the passage:

In Scotland you'd go back to your mother's at Christmas, and phone her once a week, but it was just a way for both of you to know you were not dead.

This may be Scottish, but at least it is written in the same characters and word order as English. Now picture yourself moving to Scotland. You would be struggling to understand people speaking to you and hoping they would be able to understand what you are saying to them.

You would have to learn everyday things like what hours the stores are open, where you could find American food and products, what the money exchange is, how to make Scottish friends, etc. Are you starting to get the idea of what it would be like for you to emigrate from America to Scotland?

A Man on a Mission

Kevin Rodriguez is a man on a mission or missions to be precise. While his interests are diverse from collecting paper money from different countries to reading about world history, his passion and goals related to cars are consistent.

Upon entering the OLC tutoring program, Kevin was focused on obtaining his driver's license while increasing his reading level. Over the last four months with the help of tutor **Nancy Lopez**, Kevin achieved his first "car goal." He obtained his driving permit passing the test on the first time and nearly acing it.

Kevin describes his achievement: "I thought I wouldn't pass on the first try. I told myself even if I didn't pass I will do it over again. My mom told me not to worry. I am probably the first person in my family to pass on the first go. Hopefully I will pass the driver's test on the first go, too. I just have more confidence. I proved something. I never thought I would be able to get this far."

Nancy created flash cards of the driving signs as one activity for their tutoring sessions. Kevin credits Nancy for pushing him and says

she "works me hard." Kevin did not just memorize the signs, but took the time to understand the reasons and logic behind the rules of the road. He says most questions are "common sense." On a recent family trip to Chicago, Kevin enjoyed reading the signs along the highway while in route.

Next on Kevin's car missions is enrollment in an auto body repair program in the fall. His goal is to complete the one year program for certification. And, while he is not a certified mechanic yet, he is already practicing that skill on a vehicle he purchased.

Kevin saved his money for the last year and purchased his first vehicle after careful research. With the help of his uncle, he was able to select a vehicle that fit his budget and needed minor repairs which Kevin was able to do. While he completes his required driving hours with his grandmother in her car, the car he purchased will be ready for him when he obtains his driver's license. When asked where the first place is that he would go when he is able to drive alone, he responded the Ford car museum! Another car goal!

*If you want to accomplish
the goals of your life,
you have to begin
with the spirit.*

Oprah Winfrey





Drive-Thru Tutoring?

Most of us lead fast-paced lives, busy and running in different directions. Too little time and too much to do. For this lifestyle we depend on drive thru restaurants, drive thru banking, drive thru car washes, etc. There are even stories of drive thru funeral homes now. Is drive thru tutoring next? At Oakland Literacy Council, the answer is no.

For over 30 years, we have offered one-on-one, face-to-face tutoring which has been a proven recipe for us. While there are no plans to change that model, there are options where learning can occur when an in-person tutoring session is not possible on given dates. Here are some examples our creative teams have used:

- Tutors **Su Darmody** and **Sue Abbey**, who tag team a weekly mini-conversation group at OLC, came up with an idea to supplement their sessions. They set up weekly telephone calls to the student(s) which last 15 – 30 minutes. They engage in a short conversation which allows additional practice time without meeting. NOTE: Many ESL students

express reluctance of using the telephone due to their lack of confidence.

- Tutor Oliver was in Florida for several months over the winter. He had weekly tutoring sessions with Student Jong via Skype. Jong has since graduated!
- Tutor Nancy and Student Yeonsu kept tutoring alive while the student visited South Korea. Nancy sent emails with some topical reading and/or questions and Yeonsu responded by giving answers and opinions via email.

At OLC, we are not looking for short cuts or quick, impersonal delivery methods. We are sticking with one-on-one tutoring and finding ways to still “meet” when tutors and students’ schedules become challenging. Above are great examples that insure the two hourly weekly meeting time occurs. Certainly there are others out there. So, OLC continues with the tried and true one-on-one, face-to-face tutoring. So please don’t expect fries with tutoring or to super-size it!

You’ve Got to Have Art!

The **Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA)** has been a beacon of culture for the Detroit area for over 100 years. It has one of the largest, most significant art collections in the United States and is regarded as among the top six museums in our nation.

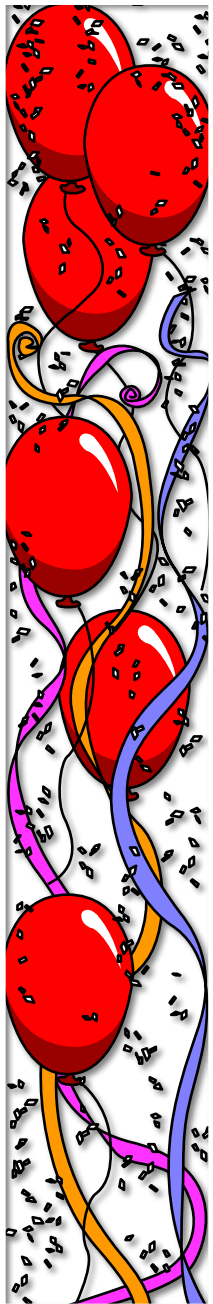
The Oakland Literacy Council will serve as host for tutors and students to visit and explore the wonders it holds on **Thursday, October 22, 2015**.

Thirty guests will be transported from the OLC office to the DIA by a luxury motor coach. Once there, participants will enjoy a private highlights tour and then time to explore on their own.

SOLD OUT—WAIT LIST ONLY

Oakland Literacy Council

Student Goal Achievements May through July 2015



May 2015	SH GRADUATED from OLC.
May 2015	DC GRADUATED from OLC.
May 2015	JK GRADUATED from OLC.
May 2015	KK GRADUATED from OLC.
May 2015	QL GRADUATED from OLC.
May 2015	GK got a seamstress job at Deborah's Stage Door.
June 2015	KR obtained his driver's license.
June 2015	GK purchased an alteration store.
June 2015	WY GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	SK GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	JJ GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	MP GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	SM GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	RE GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	SH GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	YD GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	EZ GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	RK GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	EK GRADUATED from OLC.
June 2015	AS called and obtained service for her Dyson vacuum cleaner.
June 2015	KB completed reading Go Dog, Go.
June 2015	SM can now read with her 5-year old son.
June 2015	MZ passed the U.S. Citizenship test.
June 2015	ML earned her Nursing Assistant certification.
July 2015	JH passed the Citizenship test.
July 2015	LK read to campers at a summer camp for special needs adults. She was voted Most Gracious Camper.
	CONGRATULATIONS ONE AND ALL!!!!

praise, commendation, applause, honor, acclaim, cheers; approval, admiration, compliments, bouquets, kudos, adulation; a pat on the back.

Question Box

One of our tutor **Kristin Trenholm** students, **Claire's**, shares that one of her favorite activities during their tutoring sessions is the "question box". Kristin writes five questions on strips of paper.

Claire draws them out, one at a time, and answers the questions. The trick is to avoid "yes/no" questions or at least follow them up with "why or why not". It makes for some good conversation and insight to both of their cultures.

Some of the questions that she has used include:

- Do you think libraries will be around in 20 – 30 years? Why or why not?
- Tell me a little about the oldest person you have known. How old was he or she?
- If you had guests come visit from Korea, what three places in Michigan would you choose to show them and why?
- Do you watch television news? Why or why not?

Staying on Track

Tutor **Faith Winn** and her student, **Cecillia**, really enjoy their meetings together. To ensure that they are focused, on track and meeting their goals, Faith says they periodically "review, discuss and solidify our going-forward strategy. We write a summary of our meetings to discuss/ verify what we heard from each other."

Television, Tutor and Travel

Tutor, **Su Darmody**, has found a terrific way to build upon her student's interests while practicing her listening and speaking skills.

Su's student, **Yunmi**, is having a wonderful time exploring Michigan. To enhance her learning and enjoyment of the places she is visiting, Su will assign Yunmi an episode from *Under the Radar Michigan*, (www.utrmichigan.com), to watch. This website has episodes from the PBS series that features particular Michigan cities and the people, places and things that make them great. She then has to report back at least three things that she has learned.

Another time Su used the *Anthony Bourdain, Parts Unknown* show on Korean cooking. They watched it together and then Yunmi explained what was going on in the episode. She became very animated and excited as she educated Su on what was happening!

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT VIETNAM



Country:	Vietnam
Location:	Asia
Capital:	Hanoi
Population	93,421,835
Size:	127,881 square miles (about the size of New Mexico)
Primary Language:	Vietnamese which is monosyllabic; each syllable is a word. As many as four syllables can be joined to form a new word. For instance, thanh (fresh) joins with nien (years) as thanh nien (youth). Each word has six tones and six possible meanings. The word's tone is indicated by a symbol usually located above the word's main vowel.
Climate:	Summer rainfall is heavy in most areas. While the south experiences a mostly tropical climate, the north has four seasons (two are short); winter months are chilly, but temperatures do not reach freezing. In the south, May to September is hot and rainy, while October to April is warm but has less rainfall. Temperatures are often above 84°F (29°C).
Greetings:	Vietnamese shake hands when greeting formally, but otherwise greet verbally, bowing the head slightly and standing at a distance of about 3 feet. A formal greeting between strangers is Xin chao. The most common greeting among friends is Di dau day? (Where are you going?)
Gestures	It is inappropriate to touch another person's head, the body's most spiritual point. It is rude to summon a person with the index finger. Instead, one waves all four fingers with the palm down. Hand gestures are limited because verbal communication is preferred. Men and women do not show affection in public, but it is common for members of the same sex to hold hands while walking.
Eating:	The Vietnamese eat three times a day using chopsticks and rice bowls for most meals. They hold the rice bowl in the hand; it is considered lazy to eat from a rice bowl on the table. Dishes of food are placed in the center of the table or bamboo mat. Diners choose small portions from dishes throughout the meal and place the food in their individual rice bowls. One is careful not to take the last portion of any dish, leaving it for someone else. This means food may be left on the serving dishes, but no one should leave food in his or her individual bowl.

Student **Jenny Huynh** affirms the differences in the weather between North and South Vietnam. While North Vietnam has four seasons, South Vietnam only has two seasons – wet and dry. She also adds each part of the country is different in many ways.

Jenny shares that homes are physically close together and people are very friendly. Vietnamese culture is very family oriented. In Ho Chi Min City where Jenny lives she drove a scooter, but had to learn to drive a car in the United States.

Student **Vy Pham** misses her family the most, as do most students. Vy detailed the family tradition of New Year. For three days initially, everyone cooks, cleans, and stores up many tasty meals for their families. Then, for the following seven days, no one does any work!! Friends and family will visit each other, bringing children in the household pretty decorated red envelopes with money in them as gifts! They share a meal and enjoy each other's company.

From the Water Cooler



My student and I met sporadically the last two months due to summer vacations. How do we get back on track?

The new program year started officially July 1, 2015. However, now is a good time for the tutor and student to evaluate status, commitment and goals. We suggest using the next meeting for this purpose. Take the opportunity to discuss where the student started and where they are now including reading and/or listening levels as provided for in their OLC test results. You should discuss previous goals and reaffirm those or set new goals. Some examples of these are graduation from OLC, increase in reading and/or listening levels and personal goals. Don't forget to celebrate achievements!

Putting together a meeting schedule (two hours weekly) for the fall and even into the holidays will help keep "tutoring on track". Included in this should be the student's commitment to how much and when they will study and practice on their own to attain the established goals.

And finally, review the tutoring materials you have and have used in the past. Has it become uninteresting or redundant? If so, it is time for a refresh. This is a good discussion with the student to match materials with their goals and interests. Reference Chapter 9 of your LitStart Manual: Checking Progress.

Fall Fund Raisers *Oakland Literacy Council puts the "Fun" in Fundraising*

Leon & Lulu Books and Authors Event

Sunday, October 25

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

96 West 14 Mile Clawson, MI 48017

Oakland Literacy Council will receive 10% of in store purchases at Leon & Lulu during the Books and Authors event. We are thrilled to have this opportunity for the second year in a row.

Leon and Lulu is a shopping experience like no

other. They have one-of-a-kind, high-end furniture, enormous selection of unique and funky gifts, accessories and clothing. They pride

themselves in having good design, fabulous service and great pricing along with a sense of humor about everything else. Their store is in the historic Ambassador Roller Rink in downtown Clawson. Shop while having refreshments delivered to you by roller skaters. This store has something for everyone and we are sure you will not leave empty handed.

Leon & Lulu hosts many events throughout the year. The Books and Authors event showcases Michigan artists throughout the store. Meet the artists and review their books while shopping in a fun and lively environment. Don't miss it!

Barnes and Noble Bookfair

Sunday, December 6

All day

396 John R Rd, Troy, MI 48083

Oakland Literacy Council will receive up to 20% of eligible store purchases at the Troy Barnes & Noble store on December 6 when customers present a voucher indicating they are OLC supporters. The Bookfair continues on line for five days after December 6. Shoppers can use the OLC voucher when making purchases and these sales are included in the fundraising event for OLC.

Barnes & Noble offers a vast selection of books, DVDs, CDs, games, gifts and items. This will be the perfect time for holiday shopping or better yet for yourself!