

The Reader Leader



The Literacy Newsletter of Burke County
December 18, 2006



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*Warmest Wishes
to all our Supporters and Volunteers
for a season filled with
LOVE and PEACE and JOY.
Thank you for giving the gift of READING!*

A Note from the Director...

What are you doing Christmas Eve? One of our neighboring Literacy Councils will be featured in a nationally broadcast ABC/PGA special at 3 p.m. Sunday the 24th of December. The Blue Ridge Literacy Council was chosen to be honored on the PGA Tour of the Year Special. The special is hosted by George Lopez and will be carried on our local ABC affiliate. They filmed for 7 hours, volunteers, tutors, staff and students all participated, but they don't know how much or what will be featured. It is an honor and also a real boost for literacy to be brought to the forefront.

We had a wonderful tutor training and have 8 new tutors. Not all of them have been placed with students yet, but as the New Year rolls around I feel they will all be helping people improve their lives. That is what great tutors do for the people of Burke County. The staff and all our students thank each person helping and participating in the work of the Literacy Council. We could not do it without you. Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season.

Help is needed for a beginning adult student on Tuesday or Thursday evenings – currently meeting at Mt. View Elementary School. Give us a call at 437-7477.

Program News



Project Flower has gotten off to a great start this year. There are 19 students currently enrolled and attending on a regular basis. Our classes help English as a Second Language learners with a variety of topics from the basics of reading, writing and speaking English to fire safety (Thanks to Wanda Holland from the Morganton Department of Public Safety for providing help with this session.), how to make an appointment and we've even taken a field trip to the library. The students are learning a lot and so are we! We have also added two new tutors – Marcia Hill and Marilyn Settlemyer, and we are excited to have them!

Motheread/Fatheread® is growing! Thanks to our Smart Start grant, we have been able to add three new classes (one at Child Care Connections on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30-12, one at Glen Alpine Elementary on Mondays from 1:30-2:30 and one at Western Piedmont Community College on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:00-1:00). The class at Drexel Primary continues to operate on Tuesdays from 12:45 until 2:15. These classes help parents learn new ways to read and interact with their children. Participants in the class receive a free book for attending each session. This is a great way to build your child's library. If you are interested in joining a class or would like to start a new class in your area, please call Leanne Brittain, the Family Literacy Coordinator, at 437-7477.

Twelve **Project Citizenship** students have passed the INS examination during 2006. The Literacy Council would like to congratulate these students on their hard work and dedication to becoming United States citizens.



Morgan Welch reads to Bethany Houser, Cole Welch, Lauren Pearson, Brenna Pearson, and Katelyn Pearson.

REACH OUT and READ

The Literacy Council provides books to children from ages six months to five years of age. Our partnership with Mountain View Pediatrics is alive and well. We do have a need for some volunteers to occasionally go to the doctors' offices to read to the children awaiting their well checks.

This past summer we were fortunate to have a youth volunteer at Mountain View Pediatrics in Valdese. **Morgan Welch**, student at Heritage Middle School, chose to do some volunteer work instead of just playing all summer. Her mother suggested she look at volunteer opportunities listed on the United Way website. That is when Morgan contacted the Literacy Council to see what she could do to help. After an interview, she decided to go to Dr. Michael Gonzalez's office and read to the children as they waited to see the doctor. The children, parents and the staff at the office greatly appreciated Morgan's help in entertaining the kids. Books from the Reach Out and Read list were provided for Morgan to use. In addition, Morgan held a book drive to collect new and gently used books for the Council and the doctor's office. This young lady was enthusiastic about her work and showed good leadership skills. She was able to balance this volunteer job with her other summer activities of Swim Team, Leadership Camp, and vacation. Morgan can teach us all about time management! Morgan said, "I learned that the kids really like reading if you take the time. They love being read to." We thank Morgan and her parents, Camille and Jeff for working with the Literacy Council.



Dr. Michael Gonzalez and Scott Bradshaw accepting new and gently used books collected by Morgan Welch.

Council Receives Donations

The Literacy Council is sincerely grateful to the following for their donations given between August 9, 2006 and December 14, 2006.

Individuals

.Mrs. Linda Brackett
Mr. Robert Ervin
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Erwin
Mrs. Veronica Grossi
Mr. Robert Kilpatrick

In honor of:

Leo & Eleanor Brevard
Gary and Betty Hammond
By the Valdese High School Class of 56

Community/Service Organizations

First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church

Grants/Private Foundations

Beatrice Cobb Trust
Burke County Partnership for Children
United Way United Way
North Carolina Community College
Target

In-Kind

Mrs. Leanne Brittain
Veronica Grossi

New Volunteers Welcomed

One-to-One Tutoring

Diane Claus
Connie Hairfield
Mary Highfill
Amy Lee Jones
Patricia Looper
Mildred Newton
Randolph Robins
Sue Taylor

Project FLOWER

Marcia Hill
Marilyn Settlemyer

Link Up For Literacy

Harris Teeter, Ingles and Food Lion are giving away money to support organizations like ours and we would love to help them!

You can link your VIC card to Burke County Literacy Council. All you need to do is tell the cashier, on your next visit, to link your card to our number which is **6099**. You can also link up online at <https://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pageId=32>.

You can link your MVP card to the Literacy Council by going to their website at <http://www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopAndShare/default.asp> and choosing Burke County Literacy Council. We need to have 25 cards linked in order to participate the next quarter.

To link your Ingles Advantage Card to the Literacy Council use our school code 12163. You may do this in the store or on their website http://www.ingles-markets.com/advantage_card/tools_for_schools/cardlink_step_1.php.

We can also link your card(s) for you, if you call us at 437-7477 and give us your name, address, phone number and card number. These are really good programs to be involved in. Please help support the Literacy Council by linking your grocery cards to our organization.

Contact Us

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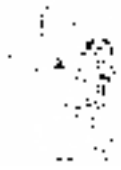
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Fundraising News...

Spelling Bee for Literacy



Companies and organizations are BUZZING with excitement about the upcoming Spelling Bee for Literacy. The worker bees will be contacting groups soon. If you know of a business, industry, or organization interested in sponsoring a team please call 437-7477 for more information.

A \$175 registration fee allows a team of three to compete in the Bee. The team may come from the business or the company may want to sponsor a team from a non-profit organization. Tickets will be \$2 at the HIVE (door). All proceeds go to the Literacy Council.

ABC Lunch for Literacy

Due to the overwhelming success of the ABC Lunch for Literacy, we are in the process of organizing the annual alphabet soup lunch. The lunch will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2007. If you are interested in volunteering to serve or sell tickets, please call the office.

Belk Charity Day

On October 27 - 28, 2006, Belk stores nationwide held their annual Charity Day. Belk allowed non-profit agencies to sell tickets for \$5 that entitled the purchaser to \$5 off their first purchase over \$25 between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. as well as 20 % off their purchases the entire day. The Literacy Council raised \$619 to support programs and services. Thanks to all who sold or purchased tickets!