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The Reader Leader

The Literacy Newsletter of Burke County

June 8, 2009



A Note from the President

Spring is such a special time of year. It is a time for reflection, new beginnings and growth.

As many of you know, our Board President, Catherine Veronica (Ronnie) Grossi, passed away on January 5th, 2009. Ronnie was a very active member of the Board. Not only did she serve two non-consecutive terms as Board President, one term as Vice President, 8 ½ years as a board member, but she also tutored ESL students at Project F.L.O.W.E.R. one morning a week.

She cared for her students so much that when one asked for help for a family member with a difficult schedule, she immediately offered her 1-on-1 tutoring on Sunday afternoons. We often joked with her about her "little red schoolhouse" as that Sunday afternoon class grew from 1 to 5 students. Ronnie was a vital part of our organization and is missed by the Board, staff and students at The Literacy Council.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Burke County Literacy Council and our help is needed now more than ever. Unemployment rates in our county continue to climb impacting the lives of all those in our community. Our mission to teach adults and their families to read and/or to improve their literacy skills and to instill in all those served a commitment to life-long learning will enable us to have a better educated workforce. This is a crucial element in sustaining the jobs we currently have and in attracting new jobs to our area.

At a time when services are needed most, we are facing budget cuts from our major

sources. This will challenge us to find ways to subsidize our budget to maintain our current program levels. The Board, with your help, will be looking for creative and innovative ways to face this challenge.

In light of these adversities, I am still excited about the future. I have had the privilege of being associated with The Literacy Council for the last three years. I began as the Family Literacy Coordinator after being a stay-at-home mom for eight years. This was a good fit for me since I worked with families, explaining to them the importance of literacy in the home while teaching them how to share books and experiences with their children. My time at home with my children was not only valuable to me as a parent but also allowed me to gain experiences and skills I was able to use when teaching new parents. I really enjoyed working with the students, staff and board so it was a difficult decision for me to leave when I was asked to join the family business. I was thrilled when asked to join the board and even more so when nominated for President. I am very excited to continue working with The Literacy Council in this new role.

Leanne

Go Green with BCLC

The Burke County Literacy Council would like to invite you to read our newsletter online or via email. Please email Ariel at literacysupport@bellsouth.net with the subject of Newsletter to join our electronic mailing list. All issues of our newsletter are available in PDF format on our website www.burkeliteracy.org

New Volunteers Welcomed

One-to-One Tutoring

Josh Benfield

Robin Hill

Christopher Kiser

Project Flower

Adriana Morris

Tutor Spotlight

Josh Benfield

When BCLC asked me if I was interested in adult tutoring I was a little reserved about the idea at first. I thought about it for a while, and figured “why not?” After just a few lessons with my student I immediately began to see how rewarding it was to help someone learn a new skill that most people, including myself, take for granted. Just the thought of my help touching every aspect of their lives is a wonderful feeling. I was sad to learn the number of adults in Burke County who can’t read. Hopefully I can influence more people to help. Just imagine, what would **your** life be like, if you couldn’t read or write a thing. Think about it then take action against it.

Program News

Project Flower participation remained strong throughout the 2008-2009 school year. Average attendance was approximately thirty students. The English as a Second Language students practiced basic reading, writing, and speaking skills. Some groups were able to begin working on some more detailed English grammar as well. Various “real-world” topics such as filling out forms, navigating the doctor’s office, and understanding grocery ads were also taught. The year culminated with a field trip to the Morganton Public Library. The Literacy Council staff and Project FLOWER tutors are so proud of this year’s participation and progress! Speaking of tutors, we were very fortunate to have many new tutors volunteering for us this year at Project FLOWER. Listed below are the new tutors who came on board: Brenda Monshine, Maggie McKinney, Lauren Amero, Sue Johnson, Beverly Bellew, and Kathy Rosenberger along with her children Danielle, Nathanael, and Jesse. Our returning tutors were Rose Shook, Marcia Hill, Vicki Poitinger, Marilyn Settlemeyer, Elinora Miller, and Miguel Sebastian. Many thanks to all of our tutors-new and veteran alike!

A new ESL class at Luz Y Verdad Iglesias de Dios began in

March. This class will continue to meet throughout the month of June before breaking for summer. Class time is on Tuesday nights from seven to nine o’clock. The attendance averages around thirty students each week. The students are very enthusiastic and are working hard. We appreciate our tutors who have worked diligently to make this new class a success: Lauren Amero, Maggie McKinney, Sue Scherwin, and Josh Cohen.

Motheread/Fatheread classes also continued successfully this year. Throughout the year regular classes were held at Family Connections, Burke-Catawba Confinement Facility, Freedom High School’s Evenstart class, Generations, Circle of Friends, and Project FLOWER. We were privileged to be able to participate in reading nights at Hillcrest and Oak Hill Elementary Schools as well as participate in Burke County Schools Kindergarten Transition Nights. Participants in these classes received a free copy of the book at each session. Through quality children’s literature, parents learn innovative ways to connect with their children and build their home library in the process. If you are interested in joining a class or would like to begin a class in your area, please call Valerie Hightower, Family Literacy Coordinator, at 437-7477.

One-on-One Adult tutors are needed! Free training and materials are provided by the Burke County Literacy Council.

Fundraising News

ABC Lunch for Literacy

The Literacy Council held our annual ABC Soup Luncheon on February 24th at St. Charles Catholic Church. Everyone enjoyed a lunch of vegetable or potato soup, grilled cheese sandwich, a cookie and a drink.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year and this year we raised \$2,950.69. Thanks to all those who donated items for the luncheon, to those who bought tickets and to all our volunteers who made this possible!

Belk Charity Day

What a successful fundraiser we had for Spring! Total earnings this spring were \$612.50! Thank you for helping support literacy in Burke County!

Spelling Bee for Literacy

It was an exciting night of competition. Team Wachovia Bank took home the trophy for their second time, beating out R. L. Patton High School in the final round. Patton had a chance to overtake Wachovia when Wachovia misspelled

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Spelling Bee for Literacy continued...

psychedelic and blanquillo but they were unable to spell floccillation and bellwether correctly for the win. In the final round Wachovia spelled ecclesiastic correctly and Patton misspelled scutage. Wachovia then spelled inosculate correctly to give them the victory.

Wachovia was represented by Angela Hartley, Philip Moore, and Candace Pritchard. R. L. Patton High School's team was represented by Courtney Duckworth, Tom Randolph, and Anne Robertson. Other teams who participated were Blue Ridge Radiology Association – Eric Antley, Paul Fischer & Robert Gage, Burke County Department of Social Services – Carrie Belas, Judy Hawkins & Amy Patton, Freedom High School – Aaron Hayworth, Maggie Ivancic & Drew Minnear, Men's Club of Morganton – Michael Fullenwider, William Mode & Ed Phillips, and Morganton Rotary Club – Dr. Tom Bland, Alan Clarke & David Rust.

This was the 17th Annual Spelling Bee for Literacy. It was held April 7th at R. L. Patton High School. This year we raised \$1,239.00. If you'd like to enter a team in next year's bee or be on the spelling bee committee, please notify Ariel by phone (437-7477) or email (literacysupport@bellsouth.net).

News at BCLC

Letter from a Reader Leader subscriber

Ariel,

Will you please send me an email copy of the newsletter instead of a printed one.

I always enjoy hearing news from BCLC. I especially notice that many people who trained from 1987 - 1997 are still involved with the council. I am very proud of the work you all have done. Congratulations!

I am tutoring again here in Asheville with the Buncombe County Literacy Council. I enjoy my adult student and we are finishing up The Laubach Way to Reading green Skill Book 1. I've done one inservice presentation here, but, regrettably, the council isn't using the LWR series.

Please say hello to Brownie and other old timers.

Sincerely,

(Abbie) Gail Cable

New Statistics Released

Today, the National Center for Education Statistics released a new report, *Basic Reading Skills and the Literacy of America's Least Literate Adults: Results from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL)*.

Key Findings:

- ◇ Seven million adults, or about 3% of the adult population, could not complete even the most basic literacy tasks in the main assessment and were given the supplemental assessment.
- ◇ Nearly 1 in 5 adults in the nonliterate in English group had a high school diploma or GED. Among them, more than half (representing roughly 600,000 adults) had earned their high school degree in the US.
- ◇ For those for whom Spanish is a first language, a delay in learning English is associated with low basic reading skills. Those who learned English before age 11 had basic reading scores similar to average native English speakers (97 words read correctly per minute); however, for those who learned English after age 21, average scores were 35 points (or about one-third) lower. Due to the correlational nature of these data, it is impossible to make causal attributions, i.e., to say that a delay in learning English causes low basic reading skills.
- ◇ Adults who took the main literary assessment were able to read, on average, 98 words correctly per minute (wpm), in comparison to 34 wpm by those in the supplemental assessment.

Literacy Council Wish List

- ◇ Bottled water for Project Citizenship participants and Project Flower children
- ◇ Copy paper
- ◇ Ink jet paper
- ◇ Pens/Pencils
- ◇ Manila file folders
- ◇ Expanding file folders
- ◇ 6x9 envelopes
- ◇ 4x9.5 envelopes
- ◇ Small pencil sharpeners
- ◇ Notebooks for students
- ◇ Scissors
- ◇ Pencil Pouches
- ◇ Book shelves
- ◇ Tutors/Volunteers

**Feed the
need to
read!**



A Note from the Director

As always, thank you so much for your continued support of the Literacy Council and its programs. We have had a full and busy year. Our student numbers have increased and we have new ESL classes with dedicated students. Many students have made amazing academic gains this year. Currently students are taking their post-tests – I look forward to our end of the year reports to see the whole picture of how well our volunteer tutors have moved their students toward reading proficiency.

Read the program updates and be proud of what the Literacy Council is doing!

And....If you ever wondered what my job was about – read the following report after a phone interview with my six year old granddaughter, Morgan Steinert. I think she got it all just right.

~~My~~ Morgan
My Grandmother is the
Executive Director of
the Burke County
Literacy Council. She
went to college to
be a teacher to get

this job. Her responsibilities
are to raise money
and teach people to
read. She uses books
and computers to help her.
She loves to read to
parents and kids. It is
hard to raise money.

Catherine Veronica Grossi

66, of Morganton, died on Jan. 5, 2009 at the Hospice in Wayne, N.J. following a serious illness. Veronica (Ronnie as she was known to friends) had lived the past several years in Greensboro and Morganton after retiring from Goldman Sachs & Co. where she was the administrative assistant to former chairmen Gus Levy and John Whitehead. She served as board president of the Burke County Literacy Council and was actively involved in other charitable endeavors. She was the devoted wife of the late Charles Grossi and is survived by her sister, Patricia Peterson of West Orange, N.J., her six nieces and nephews and many loving friends. She was predeceased by her sister, the Honorable Carol Weaver McCracken of Bloomingdale, NJ.

Parts of this obituary were found in the Morganton News Herald

Council Receives Donations

The Literacy Council is sincerely grateful to the following for their donations given between December 19, 2008 and June 8, 2009.

Individuals

Becker Law Firm
Mr. and Mrs. John Bleynt
Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Brittain
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burleson
Ms. Eleanor Butler
Mr. and Mrs. Ronny Childres
Mr. Andrew Cogdell & Mrs. Barbara Degen
Dr. and Mrs. James Collett
Mr. William Connelly
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whisenant
Mrs. Doris Wilson
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Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Wolfgang

In memory of:

Mrs. Veronica Grossi
By Mrs. Brenda Mohnshine
Mrs. Veronica Grossi
By Mr. and Mrs. Richard Claus
Mrs. Veronica Grossi and Mr. Thomas Rochefort
By Mrs. Elinora Miller
Mrs. Veronica Grossi
By Mr. and Mrs. William Sharp
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By Mr. and Mrs. Mario DiVirgilio
Mrs. Veronica Grossi
By Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fullwood
Mrs. Veronica Grossi and Mr. Thomas Rochefort
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Mrs. Veronica Grossi
By Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dobson
Mrs. Veronica Grossi
By Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jacumin
Mrs. Veronica Grossi
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By Mr. and Mrs. Chris Brittain
Mr. Frank Bowers
By Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Messenheimer
Mr. Thomas Rochefort
By Mr. and Mrs. David Daniel
Mrs. Gloria Pons
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Boggs

In honor of:

Mrs. Doris Fullwood
By Mr. and Mrs. J. Ray Leonhardt
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Mrs. Emily Alexander
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Ms. Dana Honea & Ken Masters
By Rhonda & Sage Bonfield
Ms. Gayle Walden
By Rhonda & Adam Bonfield
Mr. Josh Reeve
By Rhonda & Matthew Bonfield

In honor of continued...

Ms. Rose Lundeen
By Mr. and Mrs. John Lundeen
Mr. Merle Chapman
By Mr. and Mrs. Larry Taylor

Community/Service Organizations


Calvary Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church

Grants/Private Foundations

Burke County Smart Start
Burke County United Way
Mull Foundation
North Carolina Community College System


In-Kind

Abele's Restaurant
AJ's Prime Sirloin
BI-LO
Bojangles
Broad River Electric
Burkemont Trade & Pawn
Caring Touch Day Spa
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Fatz Café
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Food Lion #865
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HarperCollins Publishers
Healing Arts of Gentle Methods
Continued on back page...



Give the gift of Literacy

**Burke County
Literacy Council**



**Tel: 828-437-7477 Read. Learn. Help
Someone.**



BURKE COUNTY
Literacy Council

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(828) 437-7477
literacydirector@bellsouth.net
www.burkeliteracy.org

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Icard
Ingles
Innovative Ink Inc.

Lowes
The Muses
Papa John's Pizza
Pilot Mt. School Coffee Shop
Phifer Wellness Center
Sara Lee Bakery

Submasters
Timberwood Family Restaurant
Universal Artist
Uptown Restaurant
Mr. David Von Oesen
Wendy's

Link Up For Literacy

Bi-Lo, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, and Ingles are giving away money and supplies to support organizations like ours and we would love to get your help! To link your shopping cards there are three ways to sign up. 1) Go to the website listed below. 2) Use the code provided when you present your shopping card to the cashier. 3) We can do it for you if you call Ariel at 437-7477 with the requested information or return the form in this newsletter to BCLC.

Your **Advantage Card** from **Ingles** can be easily linked by signing up at your local Ingles store by using our code of **12163** or at the Ingles web site http://www.ingles-markets.com/advantage_card/tools_for_schools/cardlink_step_1.php You must re-enroll each year after August 1st.

Signing up your **Bonuscard** from **Bi-Lo** is simple. Included in the newsletter is an enrollment form. Take the form to your local Bi-Lo and provide your Bonuscard with the enrollment form to the cashier. You must re-enroll each year after July 1st.

Linking your **MVP Customer Card** from **Food Lion** is the easy. The website to sign up is <https://www.foodlion.com/InTheCommunity/ShopandShare/secure/RegisterMVPCards.asp>

You can link your **VIC Card** by asking the cashier 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>

Link Up For Literacy Sign Up Form

Shopping Cards to Link

Food Lion



MVP Shopping Card Number 12 digit code

Harris Teeter



VIC Shopping Card Number First 11 digits example: 4000000001

Ingles



Advantage Shopping Card Number 12 digit code



4 74020 22123 2

12 digit card number

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email Address

Daytime Phone #

Home Phone #

Please mail back to Burke County Literacy Council at 300 N. Green St #204, Morganton, NC 28655, fax it to 437-7948, or phone this information to Ariel Benfield 437-7477.

If you shop at Bi-Lo please cut out the barcodes below and bring one of the barcodes to a BI-LO cashier to link up and pass the other barcode out to a friend.

We are participating in BI-LO's boostersplus fund-raising program this year. We can earn money for BURKE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL by simply shopping at any BI-LO with our BONUSCARD. Just give one of the enrollment cards below to the cashier along with your BONUSCARD to be scanned within your grocery order. This one-time scan will enroll you for BURKE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL until May 31 and we will receive one percent of your purchases. Give the extra enrollment cards to family and friends so they can help us raise money as well.



1. Give this enrollment card to the cashier with your BONUSCARD one time during the school year to enroll.
2. One percent of your purchases will be donated to your designated group through May 31.
3. Call 800-768-4438 if you have any questions.

BURKE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL



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BURKE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL



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