

Tutor Times

September 2011



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I've only done a complete household move three times in my life, but it should have been more often. The "stuff" that accumulated after a few short years was unbelievable. Now that I've lived in my house for 19 years, I've decided that I should have moved every five years. The latest purging of stuff (no, it's worse than de-cluttering) is because we are having a new furnace/ac installed and will get all of the ductwork cleaned. Moving boxes is one thing, but I'm opening ones that have never been opened since we moved into the house in 1992. I found some things that should have been taken to the Antiques Road Show because I'm sure they're valuable: Melamine dishes, Snap-Crackle-Pop finger puppets, metal Slinky, 1960 presidential campaign buttons, and more. Maybe I shouldn't open them and should just throw them out. After all, if I haven't needed them yet, I probably never will. But, what if the box has an important memento that can never be replaced? It's the "what if" that stops me dead in my steps to the dumpster.

It's been 19 months since my office relocated. I've managed to keep the stuff here to a minimum, although during especially busy times, things find a home where they don't belong.

When I'm offered more stuff for my office, I've found it extremely useful to reply that I don't have any extra space for storage.

There have been recent offers from GPLC staff to tutors to come to the main office and look through textbook extras. These books are still useful and could be used as supplemental materials with a student. You see, GPLC is clearing spaces, too, as we prepare to move the main office into an expanded Downtown Center. There will be additional moves between program coordinators and their offices, so make certain to check your emails because this is the most efficient way to give you the latest news.

Have you now felt encouraged to tackle some de-cluttering in your own home? If you find anything that should be returned to GPLC, let your program coordinator know. If you have upgraded and find anything that you think we could use, let us know. If you find any valuable antiques, consider a contribution to GPLC.

~ Mary Ann Markle

North-West Program Coordinator

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." Albert Einstein

Save The Date For Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council's 24th Annual Leaders for Literacy Luncheon

November 3, 2011

Honorary Chairperson:

Richard G. Camejo, Jr.

The child of drug-addicted parents who routinely ate from dumpsters and sought refuge at all-night subway stations to survive, Liz Murray was homeless at age 15—and fending for her life. Determined not to be defined by her circumstances, she recognized education as the key to a fresh beginning and a whole new way of living. She earned her high school diploma in just two years and won a scholarship to Harvard University that would turn her bleak circumstances into a future filled with limitless possibility.



Guest Speaker:

Liz Murray

Author, *Breaking Night:*

A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival,

and My Journey from

Homeless to Harvard

Luncheon tickets are \$80. Order online at www.gplc.org/luncheon. For more information, please call (412) 661-7323 or email mpolinsky@gplc.org.

A Special Invitation for Our Friends

Get a sneak peek of this year's Leaders for Literacy Luncheon, featuring author Liz Murray. GPLC volunteers and friends are invited to attend a private showing of Lifetime's Emmy-nominated movie:



Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story

September 27th

Melwood Screening Room in Oakland

6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7:00 p.m. movie

\$10 per person

Free parking (lot)

Buy tickets at our website: choose a designation of "Movie Night."

Please call 412-661-7323 x.119 with questions.

This invitation-only event is a great chance to introduce a friend to GPLC!

Report From Your Program Coordinator

Report from the East Central Area

First, a huge thanks to you for encouraging your students to schedule their post-tests. We all know how important testing is, both to keep up on student's progress as well as to satisfy our requirements for the State. Second, a big change is on the way...I'm moving! Many of you will remember that I "maternity-sat" the East Suburbs office over the winter. Well, now I'm headed back there permanently. The East Central area will actually cease to exist; it will be absorbed by two other areas, the current East End area, where Becky Cook is the program coordinator, and the newly formed Squirrel Hill area, where Ashley Murray will be the program coordinator. I think by the time this newsletter goes to print, everyone will know who their new coordinator is...please let me know if you aren't sure! I'm both excited and saddened by this move. I know this is a great opportunity for GPLC to grow in the East Suburbs, as budget cuts have forced adult literacy agencies in the area to close, and I'm looking forward to this new challenge. But I can't help but be a little sad, leaving the area that I've known for the past eight years – and I've known many of you just as long! Rest assured that you'll be in good (possibly better!) hands with Becky and Ashley. And I'll still be around at the same email address if you want to keep in touch. I'm grateful to have worked with such an awesome bunch of people here in the EC area – now I'll get to know the awesome bunch over in the ES! With warmest thanks and fondest regards.

~Colleen

Report from the East Suburbs Area

Sending a big THANK YOU to all East Suburb tutors! Thank you for encouraging your students to take their post-tests and for helping them to reach their goals. We can never thank our tutors enough! The East Suburbs has undergone some changes. Colleen Duran is the new face at the CareerLink office. The phone number is the same (412-436-2245); only the email has changed: cduran@gplc.org. This should be a smooth transition as Colleen has been a program coordinator for the past eight years. We are glad to welcome Colleen to the area!

~Anita



Report from the East End Area

Wow! I can't believe that it's almost the end of summer, and we'll be back to jacket and sweater season soon enough. I hope that you were able to take advantage of the sunshine. I would like to thank you for your time and patience as we finished up our program year at the end of June. I really appreciate all of the help that you gave me when I was post-testing your students. As I get your new materials back to you, I hope that you and your student will enjoy the new work and the new challenges and goals that you've set for yourselves. As you begin working with the new materials from the education specialist, you may realize that your student has new or changed goals. You may find that you would like to update or complete your volunteer professional development plan to reflect the changes in your lessons. If you would like any assistance, please let me know. If you and your student took a break during the summer months, please let me know when you will be starting again and if you would like any new materials.

~Becky



Report from the North-West Area

Please check your volunteer professional development plans and attend one or two tutor talks that will help you to meet your goals. This year I plan to meet with tutors at a single location, the Brighton Heights Java House, but will have a different time each month. The topics are designed to help you with your student's goals, so please suggest some things that you would like to be placed on the agenda. If you have any unused textbooks sitting on a shelf, please return them to GPLC so that they can be used to help other tutors and students. Although we have received funding for the year, it is never as much as we hope for and those books can help trim our book purchase expenses. Thanks to everyone who helped me complete my post-testing this year by urging their students to call me to make an appointment.

~Mary Ann



Report From Your Program Coordinator

Report from the Oakland Area

As leaves begin to fall around us, new things are blossoming in my area! Not only will you (my Oakland area tutors) be among fellow Oakland and Homestead tutors, but you will now also be with Squirrel Hill and Hazelwood tutors, as this is my new area. A big welcome to those tutors! Another addition are our 2011-2012 Literacy*AmeriCorps members! Member David Busch will be teaching several classes! A great way for you to meet David and tutors from around the



area is to attend the tutor talks! In September, GPLC Tutor of the Year David Albert will give a short presentation on using illustration to teach in the ESL classroom. In

October, we will talk about teaching effective interpersonal skills in American culture. And in November we will review exercises to help our students write better. Lastly, you have all been doing a great job with your volunteer professional development plans. Many of you observed fellow tutors over the summer and then sent great reports back! Please don't hesitate to contact me about anything on your development plan!

~Ashley

Report from South Hills Area

In my June report, I said that I was hoping for warm and sunny days after the April showers. I said warm, not hot. So now I'm writing to say that I hope everyone has survived the heat of this summer and that by the time you're reading this, we will be enjoying the cooler (not cold) sunny days of early autumn. THANK YOU to ALL of you for getting your June reports in on time. You tutored over 130 students who had an average of over 70 hours for the past year. Also, thank you for your support in getting your students to meet with me for post-testing. Most of the students made substantial gains, thanks to your (and their) hard work. The past few months have been busy in the South Hills. Several students have found jobs or started new jobs, a few have had babies, some have bought their first house, and several are getting ready for their naturalization interviews. Please look at the calendar of events to find something to attend that will help you to be an even better tutor for your students. ~Peggi

Report from the North Hills Area

"Congratulations" and "thank you" to all the students who met with me for post-testing and showed gains on their tests. Thanks to all the tutors for encouraging your students to schedule their tests! I met with 39 students in the month of June alone! Most showed level gains. All indicated that they were able to do things more easily – despite what the standardized test scores were. Thanks to all the tutors who submitted their monthly reports in a timely manner so that end of the year reporting resulted in all of our students' hours being counted. It's a new program year, but keep the reports coming by the 5th of each month! Note that North Hills Tutor Talks will be scheduled on a month-to-month basis as our regular location is no longer certain. I am still open to suggestions for a suitable location. Watch your email for details each month. On a personal note, by the time you read this newsletter, I will have returned from vacation and will be catching up with matching students who wanted to wait until fall to begin tutoring. If you would like an additional student for your tutoring, please let me know as I have close to 30 ESL students waiting for the chance to meet with a tutor. Oh – and I will have a new grandchild's photos to share by then!



~Shirley

Report from the South Pittsburgh Area

I hope that you had a wonderful summer! I would like to thank all of you for all your hard work this past year with your student(s). Also, the ESL Carrick class is in need of volunteer tutors. The class runs on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on Brownsville Road. If you can tutor this class one or both days or know someone who is interested in tutoring, please call or email me. Please continue to attend the tutor talks when you get a chance, and please complete your volunteer professional development plan. If there is anything I can do to help you and your students, please let me know.

~Najlaa

Reporting on Some Student Accomplishments

East Central Area

These students all made progress on their post-tests: Saadet, Ferhat, Terri, Sean, Francisco, Karina, Elisabeth, Akiko, Asami, and Noelia.

East End Area

Fawzia and her tutor have been working on famous world leaders during their tutoring sessions. They spent quite a few sessions working on Nelson

Mandela. Fawzia was very interested and impressed by all of his great works, so she wrote an excellent essay on his life. Patricia has wanted to re-enter the medical field as a CNA because she had worked in the field and enjoyed it in the past. She is now employed part time as a CNA again. Congratulations to Patricia on her hard work at getting back to a job that she enjoys.



East Suburbs Area

Gary achieved his citizenship over the 4th of July weekend! Brenda advanced a level in reading! Rony and Thierno both tested as advanced English speakers! Tetiana and Andrii had a healthy baby!

Downtown Center

Gopi, Shequaila, Dhan, and Lois got jobs! Gopi, Til, Narmaya, and Krishna Maya graduated from VESL! We have 19 GED® recipients so far, and Daniel is our most recent recipient!

Oakland Area

Congratulations to Hua for getting her driver's license! Emi will now volunteer in the community! Thank you, Emi! Stacey has moved to Boston! We will miss you, Stacey! We will also miss Miriam who will return to Spain and have her baby there! Good work, Eun Ha, Chin Hyuk, and Guillaume, for finishing several American short stories in class. Hua, Feihu, Yue, Chang-Kwon, and Mei have all

taken their pre-tests and are ready to go for the new program year!

North Hills Area

Congratulations to our newest citizen, Joseph, who passed the interview on June 28th and was recently sworn in on July. He has been a long-time GPLC student and has worked very hard toward reaching his goal. Congrats to Joe for his new job! Congrats to Marie for completing her coursework at CCAC. Good luck in finding a new job! Nasser said he can now write the full alphabet and read better at work. His daughter said he reads "half way better!"

South Hills Area

Fan and Yong got jobs. Xe, Prosper, Jorge, and Qiang got new jobs. Sonia, Pabitra, and Ganga had babies. Marva, Nasiba, and Sanam bought houses. Saad passed the GED Tests and enrolled at CCAC. Larry read *The Wizard of Oz* (unabridged).



South Pittsburgh Area

Good job to all students who made gains on the post-tests! The Prospect Park evening class students are enjoying their work on capitalization and punctuation. Also, the class said farewell to one of their tutors. Davon and Jordan are making lots of progress towards earning their GED credentials. Both are working really hard and for long hours. Good Job, Samantha! She reserved a book on-line with Brookline Library and Googled the names of ten famous people. To her delight, all the names were of actual people who had achieved GED credentials and gone on to become judges, governors, and business owners.

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Welcome, New Tutors

WELCOME

GPLC would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new tutors who completed a workshop since the last newsletter:

East Central

Courtney Chorba
Charles Christiansen
Elizabeth Cox
Beth Depalma
Catharine Fairbairn
Anh Le
Angela Lee
John Meyers
Selma Weiss

North Hills

Anne Clough
Gerald O'Neil
Mark Schenker
Theresa Schneider
Regina Spencer
Albert Zimmerman

East End

Kira Condee-Padunova
Shannon Morris
Robin Oliver
Daranette Smiley-McKeithen
Jacob Spears
Maria Taylor
Diana Wilson

Oakland

Blair Betts
Leslie Czechowski
Kaitlyn Karsin
Rob Kunkel
Karryn Lintelman
Samuel Pittman

East Suburbs

Pamela Bentley-Robinson
Nancy Bruce
Marion Henderson
Marion Kagarise
Sonya Nelson
Emily Sabo
Steve Stern
Jacquelyn Underwood

North West

Michael Bercik
Lee Isenberg
Robin McMahan
Palitha Olden
Bojan Popovic
Michele Williams

South Hills

Ricardo Burdaspar
Mardi Centinaro
Jan Czechowski
Weldon Doran
Deidre Klaiber
Becky Minich

South Pittsburgh

Jeff Carey
Carolyn Carlin
Paula Flenory
Kathy Gorczyca
Herman Johnson
William Sitler

Pittsburgh's Day of Giving

October 4th is a great day to make a gift to Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council!

For a 24-hour period, gifts to GPLC made at www.pittsburghgives.org will be matched by The Pittsburgh Foundation. To learn more about this exciting opportunity, visit www.pittsburghgives.org.

With our waiting list at an all-time high, there has never been a better time to make a gift to GPLC!



Winning Tutors

Many tutors completed a volunteer professional development post-card (a.k.a the purple postcard), mailed it in, and had their names entered in monthly drawings. Below are the drawing winners! They each won a \$5 gift card to Starbucks.

May Becky Elk
June Tamyka N. Ramsey
July Jill Diskin



Each time you complete a professional development activity be sure to mail in a completed purple post-card to have your name entered in the month's drawing.

For more information about the volunteer professional development plan and/or the purple postcard, please contact your program coordinator or Many Ly at mly@gplc.org /412-881-3685.

From the Specialist's Desk: Using Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are effective tools that you should be integrating into your lessons on a regular basis. In your tutor training, we taught you how to use the KWL as a graphic organizer and a mind map in the writing process. You can use them to aid reading comprehension, build vocabulary, or organize information before writing. The benefits to using graphic organizers are three-fold:

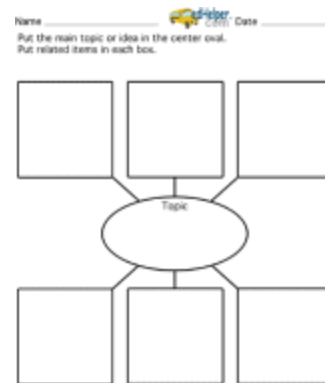
- First, they present information clearly and precisely. The relationship of the information is easy to recognize. For example, a sequencing graphic organizer makes it clear that step 1 needs to occur before step 2.
- Secondly, graphic organizers decrease literacy demands but still build higher order critical thinking skills. For example, a word wall uses a picture to help define a word, but students still need to find a picture that accurately represents the target vocabulary word so they have to think creatively and conceptually.
- Thirdly, graphic organizers are flexible. They can be used to teach a variety of content and skills and can be used before, during, or as a review in the lesson.

The internet is a great resource to find graphic organizers. If you are creative, you can also design ones in word processing or spreadsheet software. Here are some websites to print or download graphic organizers:

www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/

http://edhelper.com/teachers_graphic_organizers.htm

<http://freeology.com/graphicorgs/>



This is an example of a graphic organizer that helps a student plan a paper.

When you are introducing a new graphic organizer, make sure to plan a direct instruction lesson to introduce the reason why the graphic organizer is useful, model the thinking skills needed to use the organizer effectively, and support the student when she uses the organizer herself.

The uses of graphic organizers are limitless. You can use them to teach cause and effect, determine main idea and supporting details, show processes (like applying and interviewing for a job), present attributes of a concept (for example, the ways you can reduce stress), represent a timeline of historical events, or summarize information into a grid/matrix. Take a look at the websites listed above to generate some ideas! Don't forget to let us know in your monthly report how you've taught a graphic organizer.

Reference: Learning to Achieve, Module 7: Content Learning. National Institute for Literacy, Washington DC, 2010.

Amy Snyder,
Education Specialist

Please remember
**Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council's
students** during your employer's
workplace giving campaign.

Designate GPLC, and you will help thousands of men and women in your community **get the skills** they need to get better jobs, help their kids in school, achieve self-sufficiency, and **lead more productive lives.**

**United Way of Allegheny
County #252
Combined Federal
Campaign #57474
PA State Employee
Combined Appeal
#4601-0132**



SmartAboutMoney: Website For Great Economic Survival Information

If you have not yet visited the SmartAboutMoney website, now is the time to stop by. The website is located at www.smartaboutmoney.org and is full of information that you could turn into valuable lessons for your students. In this newsletter issue, we have included some of the many economic survival tips about creditors that you can share with your students:

- **Before you miss a payment, contact that lender by phone.** Explain the situation and discuss options. If your payment history has been good up to now with this creditor, you might be able to work out a revised payment plan (sometimes called a financial hardship plan) for a limited time.
- **If you can pay only a portion of the bill, still contact your lender.** Making an effort with small payments is better than no payment at all. Making contact and paying part of the bill may help you avoid collection calls and can help minimize harm to your credit score.
- **Don't be afraid—or embarrassed—to ask for help.** A nonprofit debt counseling service like the **National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC)** is a resource you can trust. In addition to using its website, you can call NFCC toll-free at 1-800-388-2227 to get help in turning your financial troubles around.
- **Are you facing a repossession?** Repossession means that you relinquish ownership of an item you've bought with a loan (not a credit card) but haven't paid for in full, or you've allowed the loan to go into default. It can be voluntary or involuntary—the creditor can come get the item or you can give it back. Either way, it's bad for your credit score and bad for your financial situation. Not only do you still have the debt, which doesn't go away just because you don't have the item, now you don't have the item. For example, if your car is repossessed, you still have the car loan, but now you lack transportation to your job. To avoid repossession, try selling that item yourself and using the money you make to pay back the debt.
- **Quickly raise cash to pay your bills.** Now's the time to take a look at all the things you have in your house and garage and sell as much as possible. Using a free want-ad service like www.craigslist.org or other similar sites or free, local print advertisements, post your items and sell them. Use the cash you earn to pay your credit card and other consumer debt, such as loans. Now is not the time to hang onto unused items, thinking you may use them some day.

You can find more information at the SmartAboutMoney website.



How could you turn this important topic into lessons?

- **Math** — work with your students on subtraction and addition. Additionally, work with them on percentage and interest rate.

More importantly, make your lesson contextualized. Would your students want to bring in a credit card statement (ask them about it)? Would you want to bring in one to show them? Compare interest rates. Teach them how much they would save in interest if they paid off their balance in twelve months vs. twenty-four months.

- **Speaking** — if they want to call their lender, what should they say?

Professional Development Activities

Calendar of Events for Tutors

SEPTEMBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

September 6, 5:30 - 7:00 pm North-West Tutor Talk: Assessments

Brighton Heights Java House, 3619 California Avenue, Pittsburgh 15212

RSVP by September 5 to Mary Ann Markle: mmarkle@gplc.org or 412-322-4441.

Join Mary Ann to learn about the types of assessments that GPLC students receive and how they are used by the Education Specialists to determine your student's learning plan and textbook selections. Ask a friend to come with you to see what fun tutoring can be.

September 7, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Helping Your Students with Their Job Search

Third Presbyterian Church, Fifth and Negley Avenues, Shadyside

RSVP by September 1 to Becky Cook at bcook@gplc.org or 412-661-7006.

We will discuss the skills that employers are looking for in potential new employees. We will also use the internet to look at websites that offer viable and credible job leads for students. If your students are currently looking for a job, please come to share with the

group what type of job your students are looking for and how they have been conducting their job search so far.

September 13, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Downtown Tutor Talk: Advanced Level ESL Students

GPLC Downtown Center, 411 Seventh Avenue, Suite 525

RSVP by September 9 to Najlaa Ebrahim: nebrahim@gplc.org or 412-393-7602.

Join Najlaa and other South Pittsburgh area tutors to talk about working with advanced level ESL students. There will be discussions, sharing of ideas, and ideas for successful lesson plans. Please make sure to RSVP as our Downtown Center is in a secure building, and we need to follow proper procedures.

September 20, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

South Hills Tutor Talk: Pronunciation

Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Children's Story Room

RSVP by September 16 to Peggi Kelley: pkelley@gplc.org or 412-531-3004.

ESL tutors are always looking for ways to help their students speak more clearly. We will share some ideas about things that work and things that don't. Please tell Peggi your student's first language when you RSVP and plan to share techniques you have found to be helpful. Also please note that this is a week earlier than our usual meetings.

September 21, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

North Hills Tutor Talk

Location TBA

RSVP by September 18 to Shirley Derbis: sderbis@gplc.org or 412-487-8290.

Join Shirley and other North Hills area tutors as we share fellowship and ideas for lessons that work and are targeted towards your student's goals. Bring ideas to share and take home new ones to try. Ask a friend to come with you to see what fun you and your fellow volunteers are having.

September 28, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Special Presentation: Using Illustrations in the ESL Classroom

Wightman School Community Building

5604 Solway St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217

RSVP by September 23 to Ashley Murray: amurray@gplc.org or 412-421-0525.

Join Ashley and fellow tutor David Albert to learn how using illustrations during your lessons will help stimulate conversation, build vocabulary, and review pronunciation. There will be light refreshments, lesson ideas, and lots of conversations! Hope to see you there!



Join GPLC's Tutor Book Group for lively discussions. We meet every other month in Shadyside. On September 22, we will discuss the classic *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather. Contact Many Ly at mly@gplc.org or 412-881-3685 for more information.

Professional Development Activities

Calendar of Events for Tutors

OCTOBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 4, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

North-West Tutor Talk

Brighton Heights Java House, 3619 California Avenue, Pittsburgh 15212

RSVP by October 3 to Mary Ann Markle: mmarkle@gplc.org or 412-322-4441.

Join Mary Ann to learn about the types of assessments that GPLC students receive and how they are used by the Education Specialists to determine your student's learning plan and textbook selections. Ask a friend to come with you to see what fun tutoring can be.

October 11, 5:30 -7:30 pm

Downtown Tutor Talk: Working with Small Groups

GPLC Downtown Center, 411 Seventh Avenue, Suite 525

RSVP by October 7 to Najlaa Ebrahim: nebrahim@gplc.org or 412-393-7602.

Join Najlaa and other South Pittsburgh area tutors who are already working with groups and/or considering working with groups. Please make sure to RSVP as our Downtown Center is in a secure building, and we need to follow proper procedures.

October 18, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Tutor Talk: Effective Interpersonal Skills in American Culture

Wightman School Community Building

5604 Solway St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217

RSVP by October 13 to Ashley Murray: amurray@gplc.org or 412-421-0525.

Many of our ESL learners aspire to enter the workforce, graduate school, or other institutions and social circles. Bringing lessons of effective interpersonal skills to your classroom will be very valuable! I hope you get to meet your fellow tutors!

October 19, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

North Hills Tutor Talk

Location TBA

RSVP by October 17 to Shirley Derbis: sderbis@gplc.org or 412-487-8290.

Join Shirley and other North Hills area tutors as we share fellowship and ideas for lessons that work and are targeted towards your student's goals. Bring ideas to share and take home new ones to try. Ask a friend to come with you to see what fun you and your fellow volunteers are having.

October 25, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

South Hills Tutor Talk: The Foundation Skills Framework

Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Room B

RSVP by October 24 to Peggi Kelley: pkelley@gplc.org or 412-531-3004.

The Foundation Skills Framework is a great way to integrate your lessons to work and life skills that your student needs. If you missed this last spring, you have another opportunity to learn about it. If you came last spring, you can refresh your ideas and add some new ones. We will look at different skills this time.



Your students receive the Student Newsletter around the same time that you receive Tutor Times. Please spend some time going over their newsletter with them. The information in the student newsletter is relevant to all GPLC students. Thank you!

Tutor Times Committee:

Many Ly, Program Services Manager

Peggi Kelley, South Hills Program Coordinator

Mary Ann Markle, North-West Program Coordinator

Holly Coleman, Downtown Center Program Coordinator



Professional Development Activities

Calendar of Events for Tutors

NOVEMBER 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November 1, 10:00 – 11:30 am

North-West Tutor Talk

Brighton Heights Java House, 3619 California Avenue, Pittsburgh 15212

RSVP by October 31 to Mary Ann Markle: mmarkle@gplc.org or 412-322-4441.

Join Mary Ann to learn about the types of assessments that GPLC students receive and how they are used by the Education Specialists to determine your student's learning plan and textbook selections. Ask a friend to come with you to see what fun tutoring can be.

November 16, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

North Hills Tutor Talk

Location TBA

RSVP by November 14 to Shirley Derbis: sderbis@gplc.org or 412-487-8290.

Join Shirley and other North Hills area tutors as we share fellowship and ideas for lessons that work and are targeted towards your student's goals. Bring ideas to share and take home new ones to try. Ask a friend to come with you to see what fun you and your fellow volunteers are having.

November 16, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

East End Tutor Talk: Working with Low/Intermediate Level Math Learners

Third Presbyterian Church, Fifth and Negley Avenues, Shadyside

RSVP by November 7 to Becky Cook at bcook@gplc.org or at 412-661-7006.

We will discuss math strategies for beginning and intermediate level math students. It can be a challenge to come up with non-traditional ways to teach the basics, but we will discuss tips and lesson ideas. Please bring lessons or ideas that have worked with you and your student in the past.

November 17, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Tutor Talk: Writing for College and a Career

Wightman School Community Building

5604 Solway St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217

RSVP by November 11 to Ashley Murray: amurray@gplc.org or 412-421-0525.

A large number of GPLC students are seeking help with writing, whether it is for the GED tests, a career, or post-secondary education. Join this Tutor Talk to find lesson plan ideas and resources that will help you guide your student to writing success. Both ESL and ABE tutors are welcome!

November 22, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

South Hills Tutor Talk: Holiday Lessons

Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Room B

RSVP by November 21 to Peggi Kelley: pkelley@gplc.org or 412-531-3004.

Every culture has winter holidays. With the winter holidays approaching, we will look at different types of ways to incorporate holiday traditions into your regular lessons plans.

Students are starting something new in *Student News*! In every issue students will find a question to answer. The question will be about something that hopefully will help other students in some way. The answers will be included in the following issue of *Student News*.



The question for the current issue is,
“Who is your favorite Pittsburgh Pirate, past or present?”

We are asking students to either email their answers to the student newsletter committee, to tell their tutor or teacher, or to tell their program coordinator. So if you receive answers, please pass them along to Becky Carpenter at carpenter@gplc.org. Please be sure to include the student's name, as they will be eligible to win Pirates tickets.

Community Life

Help GPLC to Recruit New Tutors

Upcoming Tutor Training Workshops

Do your friends marvel at the work you're doing as a tutor? (We do!) Do you think any of them would make super tutors? Please encourage them to take our training and meet with a waiting student. Or maybe you want to be dual trained—come to a workshop! Below is our September – November schedule. For more information, please check out our website (www.gplc.org) or contact Anita Cohen at acohen@gplc.org / (412) 661-7323 to register.

ESL Workshops are at:

Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church (Greentree) in the evening,
September 19, 21, 26 & 27

Third Presbyterian Church (Shadyside) in the evening, October 5, 6, 12
& 13

Fox Chapel Library in the afternoon, November 21, 23, 28 & 30

ABE Workshops are at:

CCAC South Campus on October 14 & 15

Community Library of Castle Shannon in the evening, October 17, 18,
24 & 25

GPLC's Downtown Center in the evening, November 1, 3, 8 & 10

Food For Thought

A collection of favorite recipes from our students, volunteers, and staff.

Order your cookbook that contains over 90 recipes from over 30 countries.

Some included recipes are Bavarian Apple Torte, Gim Bab, and Irish Beer Bread.

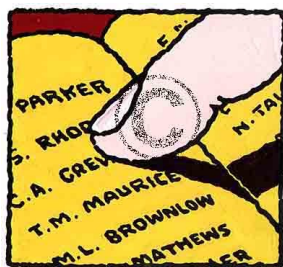
The cookbook measures 5.5 x 8.5, and a spiral spine makes it easy for any chef to handle in the kitchen.



Price is just \$10
(plus \$2 for shipping).

Contact Many Ly at
412-881-3685 or
mly@gplc.org.

GPLC's White Pages: Contact Information for Program Coordinators



East End—Becky Cook
Third Presbyterian Church
5701 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
bcook@gplc.org
412-661-7006
Fax: 412-661-3040

East Suburbs—Colleen Duran
PA CareerLink Allegheny East
2040 Ardmore Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
cduran@gplc.org
412-436-2245
Fax: 412-661-3040

North Hills—Shirley Derbis
Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council
300 Glenn Avenue
Glenshaw, PA 15116
sderbis@gplc.org
412-487-8290
Fax: 412-486-8436

North-West—Mary Ann Markle
Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council
1301 Beaver Ave., Suite 101
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
mmarkle@gplc.org
412-322-4442

Oakland—Ashley Murray
Wightman School Community Bldg.
5604 Solway St., Office 207
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
amurray@gplc.org
412-421-0525
Fax: 412-661-3040

South Hills—Peggi Kelley
Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
371 Cedar Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
pkelley@gplc.org
412-531-3004
Fax: 412-661-3040

South Pittsburgh/Central City—Najlaa Ebrahim
Downtown Center
411 Seventh Avenue, Suite 525
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
nebrahim@gplc.org
412-393-7602
Fax: 412-393-7620