

LiteracyLinks

The Portland Literacy Council Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

Peggy L. Murphy, Editor

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The Big Tutor Toolbox Edition - Vol 2 by Peggy L. Murphy, Editor

We got a lot of positive response to the April LiteracyLinks with its resources tutors might use for their students. This month we will focus on how tutors can find out more about how to tutor. We'll begin with an invitation to the new Tutor Discussion Group.

Next Tutor Discussion Group — June 30th

Are you a tutor looking for a place to discuss ideas, techniques, and provide support? If so, we invite you to join like-minded folks at the next Tutor Discussion Group get-together:

- Saturday, June 30, 10 a.m. to Noon
- PCC Sylvania, Room SS 103
- Open to anyone involved in volunteer literacy tutoring

Anne Meagher and Carolyn Talarr will facilitate the meeting. They ask that participants bring a lesson plan or idea they have used successfully with a student(s) and share it with the group. Also, be prepared to share what you think "success" means in this case and why your lesson or event was successful.

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Discuss and finalize Mission Statement
3. Discuss ground rules for future meetings (e.g., selecting a facilitator, speaking respectfully to other members, etc.)
4. Share successful lesson/idea with the group (5-6 minutes per person)
5. Choose meeting dates and facilitator for next meeting

In early June, Portland Literacy Council will send an Email notice of the meeting, and request RSVPs to the Tutor Discussion Group.

The Tutor Discussion Group plans to meet about every two months. The group will run on tutor power, with backup assistance from Portland Literacy Council. Questions? Contact [Peggy Murphy](#).

Volunteer in a Classroom

Don't wait until March 10 (the 2013 tutor conference date) to learn something from your favorite workshop presenter(s). What better way to get hands-on experience than to volunteer in a classroom? VLT coordinators can refer tutors to teachers wanting classroom help. The [Tutor page](#) of the PLC website includes a list of Portland area programs needing volunteers.

ProLiteracy Education Network

Twenty-one free online courses are available at the [ProLiteracy](#) website, Instructors tab. Whether you are experienced or "just thinking" about tutoring or teaching, you're sure to find a course that interests you. The menu includes reading and writing, citizenship, ESL, math and numeracy, and getting started in instruction.

The ProLiteracy Education Network has replaced the Verizon Thinkfinity website.

Oregon Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

[ORTESOL](#) serves a variety of ESOL professionals, and promotes scholarship, disseminates information, and strengthens research and instruction in the ESOL field. Membership levels include regular (\$20) and part-time instructors and students (\$15). Membership is required to attend workshops.

Of note on the ORTESOL website

- Reading and Writing workshop June 2, PCC Cascade Campus
- Links for the Spring 2011 Workshop, "Pronunciation Techniques for ESL Teachers," by Susan Ginley (includes video pronunciation sessions).
- Fall Conference, November 16-17, PCC Sylvania, "Teaching in a Time of Transition"

Please see the ORTESOL website or contact the organization for information on membership and workshops.

TESOL Certificates

At the tutor conference, a board member overheard a conversation in which a tutor recommended a training program at Concordia University to another tutor. Research led [LiteracyLinks](#) to the Concordia University TESOL Certificate program described in the following article.

Editor's Note: Training suitable for tutors is readily accessible. This information is offered as a sampling and for informational purposes only, and is not an endorsement of any program. TESOL certificates are offered by public and private schools, Be a wise consumer: some programs may require travel or temporary relocation, which will add to the cost. Diligent research will discern accuracy of claims, job placement assistance, and hands-on teaching practice.

Concordia TESL Certificate

by Sarah Bauer

Do these tutors sound like you? Julie was ready to make a change from her teaching career in anthropology and was eager to learn the theories and strategies specific to second language acquisition. Jen was a tutor with dyslexic children and was anxious to gain a deeper understanding of the English language to expand her work to include adults.

What Julie and Jen have in common is that they fit in well at the [TESL Certificate](#) program offered every summer by Concordia University.

Concordia is a small, liberal arts university celebrating a quiet presence in Northeast Portland for over 100 years. For almost a decade, the university has offered a graduate degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), and as a companion to the full degree, a 3-week intensive Certificate class for people like Julie and Jen and you.

Retirees volunteering locally, college students heading abroad, mid-lifers making a career move, international teachers enhancing their methodology, all find their way to the Certificate class. As Julie says, "My cohort was not of the typical graduate school demographic. The other students came with quite a diverse set of backgrounds and goals, enriching my overall experience."

Combining hands-on practical training with a background in current language learning theory, the Certificate program is both dynamic and comprehensive. Workshop-style classes include topics in methodology, pronunciation and grammar, intercultural communication, lesson planning and syllabus design, assessment, as well as strategies for teaching each of the skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking).

Participants apply their new skills immediately through in-class activities, peer teaching opportunities and practice teaching with ESL learners, both in one-on-one and classroom settings. Jen comments, "What I got out of the class was so much more than the sum of its parts. Any teacher can show you activities, but this class gave me an insight into cultural experiences and cultural differences. Learning HOW to communicate was the most valuable part of the class."

The Concordia TESL Certificate is offered this year from July 9th to July 27th. Cohorts are limited to 20 participants and registration is open now. Contact the Director of International Studies, Linda Rountree, Email lrountree@cu-portland.edu.

Sarah Bauer is an instructor in the Concordia University program, and has presented numerous workshops at Annual Tutor Conferences.

Other Certificate Programs

Dave's ESL Cafe

Dave's might be the first place to start investigating TESOL certificate programs. Its menu includes jobs and "stuff" for teachers, students, and everyone. Some postings are "sponsored links," i.e., paid advertising, so use your good business sense when evaluating offerings.

People*Places*Things

P*P*T programs include Ampersand: Experiential Training for Language Teachers; Voz Alta: Community Based English Language Skills Programs; Working People's Spanish: Flexible Spanish Practice for Working People; and Interpret: Practical Skills for Medical Interpreters. Patrik

McDade, a frequent workshop presenter at PLC's annual tutor conferences, is a program director at P*P*T. Mr. McDade and his program were featured in a [February 2011 LiteracyLinks](#) article.

University of Cambridge

Offers **CELTA** (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at training sites as well as online.

Oxford Seminars

TESOL/TESL/TEFL **Certificate Courses** are offered at over 100 U.S. cities.

Masters Degrees

For those who want to enter the teaching profession, advanced degrees may be required. Consult the university websites for more information.

For Your Calendar

Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training

Registration Information (register by Email or telephone 971-722-6111 X3700)

- June 16th & 23rd, 9 am- 4 pm
PCC Sylvania Campus
12000 SW 49th, Portland

Tutor Discussion Group

Saturday, June 30, 10 am to Noon
PCC Sylvania, Room SS103
See article on page 1.

Opportunities

ORTESOL

Reading and Writing workshop
June 2, PCC Cascade Campus

Details and registration: [ORTESOL](#)

Multnomah County Library MultCo Library GED Labs Orientation

Registration is required. Learn what and how to study for the GED. Find out if you are ready to test; if not, find out what kind of assistance is available. A GED test scholarship at Londer Center awaits those who complete the [GED Labs](#).