

# LITERACY OF NORTHERN NEW YORK

## SPRING 2009

### Recognition Celebration a GREAT Success

Our annual “Recognition celebration” was held on February 21. We had a big crowd - 21 students and 15 tutors, along with some of the students’ family members. Our potluck lunch was delicious, and we all enjoyed everything, from dishes from far away places supplied by our ESL students to wonderful desserts. Entertainment was provided by a student from Potsdam College, Jeff Lyons, who played the guitar and sang some American folk music. Everyone enjoyed meeting someone new through a game – “We have a lot in common” which involved speaking to someone you didn’t know and finding out (in 5 minutes) how many things the 2 of you had in common. For example, some found they both owned the same kind of car; others discovered they both enjoyed the same kind of music. We heard several people request that we hold a get-together twice a year, so we’ll consider doing that.



## **New tutors have joined us**

As of March 28, we have 14 new tutors! We are delighted to add them to our available volunteers as the need for our services continues to grow all the time. The new members of our team include Jenna Brown, Brent Chamberlain, Lauren Coakley, Meagan Compeau, Roger Cunningham, Raelyn Erdner, Lavern Freeman, Brad Lambert, Sara Lincoln, Malcolm McCormick, Jane Plastino, Katie Smith, Wendy Turnbull and Scott Wakefield. By the end of March, they will each be matched with a student. Welcome to all of you!



## **Can you spare any more of your time?**

Since new students are constantly asking for help, we always need more tutors than we have available, even though we try to train 20-25 new volunteers each year. If any of you would consider taking an additional student, please contact us at 265-0194 or via email ([lvastlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:lvastlaw@hotmail.com)).

**Tutor hours for January –  
March due now**

If you worked with a student (or students) during the period January- March 2009, please send us your report on your time with your student . We'd like to know the number of hours you were with your student, and also please let us know about any of your student's achievements, including (but not limited to) getting a job, getting a job promotion, attending any kind of training, getting a driver's license, enrolling in any educational program, starting to participate in community activities, meeting with their child's teachers, etc. You may choose to go to our website and to click on "send notes/tutor hours" to submit the report, or you can call or email us. If you have already submitted this information, THANK YOU!

**In-service planned**

Periodically we like to offer our tutors an opportunity to expand their skills by providing in-service training. We usually hold this in Potsdam, usually on a Saturday morning. Topics we're currently considering include "suggestions for basic literacy techniques" and "ESL idea exchange (tutors contribute and demonstrate their personal favorite lesson ideas.

PLEASE send us an email ([lvastlaw@hotmail.com](mailto:lvastlaw@hotmail.com)) or call us (265-0194) with ideas for in-service topics as well as your thoughts on the location and time/day for this activity. We realize that Potsdam is a bit far for some of you to drive, but it's central for the County. Also, would you prefer a weekday evening? We need your input, as we want to make this relevant, interesting, and accessible to as many people as possible. We welcome your ideas for in-service topics, as we want to provide help for the problems you are experiencing out there "in the trenches".

**Computers available for your students**

The Ogdensburg Library has donated a few used computers to our organization, and if your student would benefit from having a computer, we will give them away on a first come, first served basis. Please note that as far as we know, these are in working order. Students **must** be told that we are not responsible for maintenance or repair of these computers. Please call the Literacy office if your student would like a computer and monitor; unfortunately no printers are available.

### **Yard Sale**

As you may have heard, government funding for the Literacy program has been drastically cut, and we are seeking ways to raise some money. A Literacy of Northern NY Board member will be holding a yard sale the last Saturday in May. All proceeds will be donated to the literacy program. We would welcome items to include in the sale, including books, toys (in good condition), household appliances (in working order, please), household goods, children's clothing, decorative items, and even furniture. If you have anything to donate, please call the Literacy office (265-0194); if there's no answer, please leave a message.

Bobby Gordon  
Program Manager  
[lvastlay@hotmail.com](mailto:lvastlay@hotmail.com)  
315-265-0194

E. Anne Mazzotta  
Program Assistant  
[mazzotalit@hotmail.com](mailto:mazzotalit@hotmail.com)  
3150265-0194

### **Good News about Students**

Jutta Fitzsimon's student, **JS** received a grade point average of 3.8 during this past semester at Canton College.

### **Citizenship**

We received two copies of the 2009 edition of New Readers Press **Citizenship Passing The Test**, and a teacher's guide. It is available at the literacy office.