

LITERACY LIGHTS



"To learn to read is to light a fire!" VICTOR HUGO

255 Clifton Boulevard, Suite 314, Westminster, Maryland 21157 • 410-857-0766 • e-mail: lcouncil@carr.org • www.literacy.carr.org

From the Director's Desk

This is an early addition of the Literacy Lights since June is going to be a very busy month.

We continue to move forward with many new programs and successes. Our program for the *You Can't, We Can* Rehabilitation Center continues to be very successful. We are moving forward with plans to expand that program into the Westminster area by late summer or early fall. Richard Keen continues to add more tutors to our rolls as well as students. Our office upgrading is in the works and should be completed by the end of June with new computers and other tools to serve our mission.

We have just come off a very successful fundraiser, The 17th Annual Spelling Bee and are looking forward to our Golf Tournament in June at the Quail Valley Golf Course. We still have a couple of openings. If interested, please call the office. Anyone can play – we have a team led by a 93 year young lady – so join in the fun! Also, "June is Coins in the Fountain at the Mall in Westminster". If you happen to be there, throw your loose change into the fountain to help the cause.

The Council will also have a change on our Board of Directors in June as Yukari Simpson steps down as Treasurer and is replaced by Shaun Blakeslee, a Financial Advisor at PNC Bank. We would like to thank Yukari for all of her hard work in preparing financial documentation for our grant submittals and her work as Treasurer. The Board of Directors and I look forward to working with Shaun. Also, at the Board meeting, it was decided to add three individuals to our Advisory Board. They are Gene Pryor, Financial Specialist, Mary Ann Davis, Social Media Specialist, and Frank Steck as our Communications Specialist.

Our intern from McDaniel College, Stefan Specian, has officially left as an intern but is volunteering to work with us through the summer to develop new computer programs for the office and submit grants among other projects. Thank you Stefan!

Sam Greenholtz
Executive Director

Save the Date
Golf Tournament June 10, 2016

New Office Computers

An upgrade of our office computers is coming soon. We are very excited as to all the possibilities that the new computers and new networking will open for us. Tutors will no longer have to wait minutes as they try to switch internet screens in our training rooms. Office staff will be able to share files without having to copy them to thumb drives and physically walk them from computer to computer.

The office will be closed 2 days to allow this work to be accomplished. The dates will be determined by the installer and will be mentioned on our office voicemail.

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Spelling Bee

The evening began on a humorous note as Sheriff Jim DeWees introduced all 9 teams of best spellers in Carroll County. The Honorable Fred Hecker was our pronouncer and Lisa Picker was our judge. The delightful Gabi Davidheiser entertained at the break with a medley of popular songs. Thank you to these three and all of the others who made this a most enjoyable evening.

The Bee consists of 5 rounds with teams scoring points for spelling words from chosen difficulty levels. A team can also lose points and use various "mulligans" to get second chances. After the initial 3 rounds, all scores are doubled in the final 2 rounds. Paper and pencils are on all tables so the audience can spell along.

The Bee will be shown on Carroll County's local TV Channel 19 if you were not able to attend.

The Literacy Council was very grateful for the community support which allowed us to raise just over \$5,000.00. Our only funding comes from events like these and we appreciate your donations.

Pics from the Bee



**Spelling Bee Champions
Carroll Community College
Spellbinders**



**Ester-Marie Emslie accepts Second Place for
Penguin Random House's Illiteratis**

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We Spell McDaniel

McDaniel College who finished third was enthusiastically cheered by their stalwart mascot.



One of the four teams sent by Penguin Random House. The Alphabetties have been coming to the Bee for many years.

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The Carroll County Libraries always show that librarians know their vocabulary.



North Carroll Middle School, last year's winner, enjoyed showing why they are the best public school spelling staff.

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Exciting Breaking News

The Literacy Council has begun working on two new major projects. They are listed below:

Hello, Taneytown

First, we are currently working with Nancy McCormick of the City of Taneytown on finding a temporary office for the Literacy Council to operate out of a couple of days a month. We are also going to be looking at getting additional tutors from the Carroll Vista Development. Nancy has said that she has numerous potential students in the Taneytown area who need our help but do not have the ability to travel to the Westminster area for training and evaluations. In cooperation with the Kahlert Foundation we have agreed to expand our services to that area when the new non-profit center opens in about 18 months. However, the demand is there now, so we are looking to do a temporary solution in the interim.

Expanding Our Services

Second, the United Hands of Carroll County have unfortunately lost their funding and are closing their doors soon. Among the projects that they have been working with are the following; ESOL, Citizenship Training, drivers license training, and assisting clients with filling out job application forms. These are areas that we have previously and currently are doing work in so we have volunteered to help alleviate the loss of training in the area.

If you would like to be involved in helping train in any of these areas please notify the office.

The coffee will be perfect and you will get a hole in one.*

Good reasons to join us for the Annual Golf Tournament.

Friday, June 10, 2016

Quail Valley Golf Course, Littlestown, PA

Coffee/Bagels in the AM

Lunch provided

Great prizes

Information: 410-857-0766



*Hole in one not guaranteed (Aren't you glad you can read the small print. Remember those who can't)

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Tutoring Outside of the Box

Tutors often look for supplements to the Pro Literacy manuals that students use to improve their reading and writing skills. That's a good thing! While Pro Literacy manuals are excellent, there is always something more that can be included in a lesson that benefits a student. The Literacy Council has a variety of supplemental material that can be borrowed and used in teaching the mechanics of literacy. For example, Patterns in Spelling is an excellent aid to writing. It teaches word families that are common in the English language. Student will be able to recognize patterns of letters that produce familiar sounds used in many words including blends of consonants and vowels. Focus on Phonics will provide help in pronunciation.

In addition, there are manuals for developing writing skills, a library of reading material, and a collection of worksheets covering grammar, composition and other literacy topics. And don't overlook the Internet. There are hundreds of sites that offer free printable material to supplement regular lessons. To receive a list of recommended sites, just email the Council at lcouncil@carr.org.

Finally, don't overlook what a student can offer as supplemental material. Encourage a student to bring something of their own to a tutoring session, or to select something from the library that they are interested in reading.

Tutoring should be geared to meet a student's needs and interests. Sometimes it helps to tutor outside the box.

Richard Keen
Student/Tutor Coordinator



The Literacy Council is sponsoring a Flag for Heroes at the Westminster Cemetery in honor of "All volunteers of the Literacy Council – Past and Present – who are veterans". The flags will be flying high on Memorial Day, May 30 th. This program is sponsored by the Westminster Rotary Club.

Thank you for your service!