

NALA NEWS

JOPLIN NALA READ

Reading is Rocket Science



Why would anyone think that reading is Rocket Science? To answer that, let's think about the steps one goes through to learn to read. First children learn that the sounds of their language have letters which represent those sounds in print. So the reader-to-be must learn those letters. English has 26 letters and 45 sounds. Our vowels (a -e-i-o-u) have 4 to 5 possible sounds apiece—there are a multitude of possible variations to keep in mind as one learns letter-sound correlation.

Let's assume the person

now knows the sounds of English. Will the reader have to sound out every word to know what it is? Once when I asked a friend how she knew what a word meant (though she couldn't pronounce it), she told me, "I own that word." Reading is "owning" words—knowing the meaning—for example, seeing an infant in your mind when the word is *baby*, seeing a person in uniform when the word is *soldier*.

At some point the reader has to jump from sounding out the words to "owning" them. Students show this when they see the word *pond* and say *lake*. They have visualized a body of water, and even though they're not saying the

correct word, they understand the basic meaning of the word.

Recognizing meaning from print and carrying it along to the end of a sentence, to the end of a paragraph, to the end of an article or story—that's reading. Connecting all the parts (which you are doing now) to understand the writer—that's reading, and it isn't easy. It's actually a very complex set of signals which requires instantaneous decoding to reach a conclusion. And that's why I say reading is rocket science.

Congratulations to our students who are budding rocket scientists and to our tutors who are helping them make progress. Welcome back!

Marj

Why Literacy?

When adults learn to read and write, they have the power to transform their lives.

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Advisory Board

Board President, Judy Stiles, asked the board to consider establishing a Community Advisory Board that would offer input and wisdom to our ongoing program. This would involve contacting some key people who see

first-hand the benefits of students completing literacy programs at NALA—business owners, community leaders, educators, and NALA students—people who can help provide input concerning needs and

goals for the future. Perhaps this will help us not only receive input, but develop stronger supporters in the community. The board agreed and will meet in July to get started. We welcome your input.



In June we said a reluctant good bye and best wishes to Gail, NALA's Administrative Assistant for the past 9 years.

Welcome Robin, Brenda, and Dorothy



Join us for Field Trip Friday in July.

New Program Year Brings Changes

Joplin NALA Read reopens Monday, July 6th and this marks the beginning of a new program year.

We are glad to have everyone back after Summer break. Students, as you return for classes and tutoring, we ask that you fill out a new STUDENT DATA SHEET. This gives you a

chance to update your phone number, address, status, and goals.

Then we will update our records, too. Correct contact information helps make sure that you receive mailings (like this one!) and phone calls in case of changes in your class or tutoring schedule.

Speaking of changes, In June we said good bye to Gail, our Administrative Assistant. After 9 years of assisting students and tutors, maintaining attendance records and helping out wherever needed, Gail decided to retire. We wish her well as she begins this new chapter of her life.

Welcome Volunteers

Some new faces will greet you when you come back in July. We have a team of volunteers who will tackle NALA's administrative tasks along with assisting students and tutors.

Robin Hardin, retired from Empire, was looking for a place to volunteer when she was encouraged to check out opportunities at NALA by one of our board

members. Robin is a past Spell Ball team member and decided to come in and talk with us. Robin will usually be in the office Monday and Thursday mornings.

Brenda Boyer has most recently been self-employed and has seen first-hand the struggles of adults with low literacy skills. Tuesday mornings she will be in the

NALA office helping with administrative duties.

Dorothy Fulks serves on the NALA Board of Directors and is the NALA Treasurer. She will fill in as needed to help cover all the administrative tasks that need to be done.

Field Trip Friday

Along with our usual classes, we are adding "Conversation in the Community" class during the month of July on Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30. The class will be followed by a walking field trip to a point of interest in the Joplin downtown area.

Child time will be provided during the class. Children will have snacks, story time, and do a craft. Children are encouraged to go on the field trip too!

The class and field trip is open to all NALA students and tutors.

Field Trip Friday Schedule

- July 10 — The Joplin Globe
- July 17 — Art Feeds
- July 24 — Family Potluck
- July 31 — *To Be Decided*

Cooking for a Cause Benefit Breakfast

Joplin NALA Read Board members and volunteers will be cooking and serving breakfast Saturday, July 11th from 9:00 to 11:00 at the Webb City Farmers Market.

On the menu is biscuits and gravy, sausage, farm fresh eggs cooked to order, and juice or coffee.

The Farmers Market sponsors *Cooking for a Cause* for area non-profits. Proceeds from the breakfast

will go to NALA to fund our literacy programs.

Along with breakfast, you will find farm fresh produce, humanely raised meats, herbs, honey, jams and jellies and so much more.



**Saturday
July 11
9:00 to 11:00**

NALA Family Fair

Not enough can be said about the adult learners who come to NALA to improve their literacy skills. So let's celebrate with our students at the NALA Family Fair, Friday, July 24th from 11:00 to 1:00 at Joplin NALA Read.

We hope you will join our NALA students and tutors and their families as we take the opportunity to congratulate our students who take it upon themselves to go back to learning to improve their lives.

Hotdogs and drinks will be provided. We will have a photo booth and play *word* bingo.

All families are asked to bring a dish to share.



**Friday
July 24
11:00 to 1:00**

Kitchen Reader

Joplin NALA Read published a Kitchen Reader featuring recipes and stories from our learners, tutors, staff, and friends.

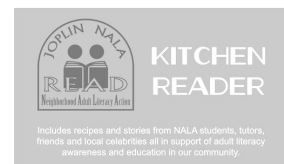
Writing recipes and stories helped students to use their reading, writing, and vocabulary skills. Students certainly felt a sense of pride in seeing their work in print.

The Kitchen Reader provides a means to share the impact of Joplin NALA Read with the community and to raise funds to grow and improve our programs.

You can buy a Joplin NALA Kitchen Reader at the NALA office or order online at www.joplinnala.org. The Kitchen Readers are 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$20.

All printing costs have been underwritten by a generous grant from the Bramlage Family Foundation. 100% of all sales go directly to support Joplin NALA Read Programs.

Your generosity enables the hard working adult learners in our community to meet their literacy goals.



English Forward Tutor Workshop

Joplin NALA Read received a \$1500 grant from the Rotary Community Fund for English Forward, a two-day English as a Second Language (ESL) Instructor Training, to be held Friday and Saturday, August 28th and 29th.

English Forward was developed by the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas through a Dollar General Literacy grant and has been successfully piloted, proven, and replicated in several communities nationally.

Joplin NALA Read was selected to receive the English Forward program

this year for just a fraction of the actual cost (a \$9,500 value) because we are a past recipient of a Dollar General Literacy Grant and have a proven record for successful project completion resulting in sustainable programs.

English language learners share many of the same goals as those whose first language is English – to provide for themselves and their families. To do this they need to learn English well enough to survive as workers, family members, and citizens.

English Forward is the first

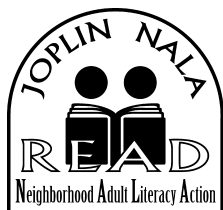
comprehensive, research-based training system for adult ESL instructors. Rather than emphasizing textbooks, English Forward emphasizes using authentic materials and students' own life experiences to create an engaging classroom environment that will retain students and improve learning.

The workshop is limited to 25 people and we currently have 20 seats left. Please let Marj or Joan know if you would like to attend or email us at joplinnala@123mail.org to reserve a spot. We will also offer spaces to surrounding literacy councils.



English Forward Tutor Workshop

Friday,
August 28th
& Saturday,
August 29th



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