



NALA-GRAM

A Newsletter for Tutors and Volunteers

May 2014

From the Director's Desk

As the siren blared its warning, we went down to the tornado safe room in our basement that Sunday afternoon a few weeks ago. Sitting there, I spied a box labeled "Clock Radio," and I was just curious enough to get it down. In that box I discovered a treasure—not of wealth—but of memories. For they were letters Sid and I had written to my parents when we first went to the Philippines in 1964. There were even a few letters from our children to my mom and dad.

Thinking about the letters, my mind jumps to the work we do here, teaching folks literacy, and I know again just how valuable literacy is. Telling stories aloud has its own value, but writing them down for others to read explodes the value as they are shared with countless people over decades. Our children are eager to read the letters written so long ago about our life in another country.

My thoughts make a further jump to a project Joan and I are initiating. We want to compile a cookbook from students and tutors which will include not only recipes, but stories they share from their lives. Real literacy is not just finishing Laubach or Challenger books, but using what has been learned to enrich our lives. I think that includes stories and recipes. Do you agree? Read more about it in this newsletter, and then plan to come to our Tutor In-Service on Thursday, May 22 at noon to learn all about the Cookbook project.

~ Marj

Student Spotlight



It is fascinating to watch our students grow in their commitment to learning and NALA. Sue comes early to study an hour before her class. Iris asks for the correct pronunciation of a word and imitates it well. Maria brings cookies and persuades other students to attend a breakfast fundraiser for NALA. Jeronimo donates \$20 frequently. Elizabeth actively participates in reading with her tutor although she is mute (by choice). Dani often goes to the library before meeting with her tutor. Nisa has never been to school and is understandably shy and nervous but keeps coming to class. Emma shows up at 8:00 a.m., stays until noon, and comes back for the evening class, bringing her friend with her. Young speaks on behalf of NALA to civic organizations.

The list of students who carve out time to attend NALA—that list could go on and on. I am impressed with adults who recognize their need of tutoring and seek it out. We are glad to have such a committed, energetic body of students.

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Teacher Feature



Our Volunteer of the Year honored at our Appreciation Luncheon is Dan Cantrell

If I were to describe our Volunteer of the Year, I'd have to say he is a latte fun! He overcomes the daily grind (get it?) by his perky attitude. He says the best part of waking up is coming to NALA to teach! He blends to perfection the 8 o'clock brand of punctuality with the superior Gevalia brand of excellent preparation for his students.

Our Volunteer of the Year has been with Joplin NALA Read for over a year and a half. During that time he has tutored eight different students, ranging from English as a second language learners to a young man taking his high school equivalency exam. In between those students, he has taught math, reading, studying the driver's license manual, and recently, the ASVAB which a person takes to enter military service. There seems to be no challenge too difficult for this volunteer to face. He takes all challenges on and does well in each.

He's willing to learn the best way to teach a student and gladly attends tutor In-services and workshops as we offer them.

To date he has tutored 240 hours, and if we logged the hours he has spent preparing, it would be closer to 300. We appreciate the hours he spends with his students, and we appreciate his attitude of care for the welfare of Joplin NALA Read. We are glad to present a gift card to The Grind Coffee Shop on Joplin St., in keeping with our *Thanks A Latte!* theme to the Volunteer of the Year for 2014—Dan Cantrell. Thank you for your hard work and willingness to take on all kinds of challenges in teaching our students.

Thanks a latte

To all our volunteers!

Tutor Workshop

Teach an adult to read.
Inspire the world to change.
Literacy changes everything.

When adults learn to read, write, or do basic math, their transformations are nothing short of remarkable. They can find and keep jobs, enjoy better health, and educate their own children. Their new skills enable them to dream big, do more, and move forward. And that means society can move forward, too.

Our tutor workshop will help you to spark this type of lasting change for individuals who want to improve their literacy skills.

New and experienced tutors are invited to join us for a two day tutor workshop at Joplin NALA Read on Tuesday and Thursday evening, June 24th and 26th, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please let us know you are coming so we have plenty of material and snacks for all. Invite a friend! RSVP by phone or email: 782.2646 or joplinnala@123mail.org.

Book Share

**During Downtown Joplin's Third Thursday
May 15th, 5 – 8 pm**



Book ownership is important in fostering an interest in reading and a love for books. Providing books to adults and young children in our community is vital to fostering a love and appreciation for reading and learning for life. Thanks to a recent book drive by Eagle Scout Zach Salyer and book donations from students, tutors and friends of NALA – we have books available for a donation. Stop by our book share which will be set up on the sidewalk in front of NALA during Third Thursday and see what it's all about. Want to help? Set up starts at 4!

Lunch & Learn

Cookbook Literacy

Learn how you and your students can get involved in NALA's Cookbook Literacy Project – a collection of stories and recipes by the students, tutors, and friends of Joplin NALA Read. The project's purpose is to create literacy awareness through published student stories and recipes, develop a cookbook literacy curriculum to empower our students to be the catalysts for healthier families, and raise funds for our literacy program through cookbook sales.

Writing recipes helps learners in a lot of areas: food related vocabulary, giving instructions, and discussion of family traditions. At the Lunch & Learn we will give you tips for using Cookbook Literacy with learners at all levels.

To get started we are asking you to share a dish and your recipe at the Lunch & Learn – use the enclosed Joplin NALA Read Cookbook Recipe Form. Don't have time to cook – come anyhow and learn about this special project!

LUNCH & LEARN

Tutor In-service Thursday, May 22nd at noon
Bring a dish and a recipe to share.
Call 782-2646 or email joplinnala@123mail.org

Reading Strategies

Teaching Tips for Word Attack

Most adults have not spent much time thinking about word attack strategies and how to use them effectively in their own reading. Here is a list of word attack strategies and a brief description of each.

1. Use context to predict

Use with sentences that have good clues to guess the word. Read ahead and say "blank" for the unknown word.

I went to the barber to get a haircut.

2. Give a rhyming word

There are many common rhyming words, especially words that are short and have one or two syllables.

I didn't expect to bump into you.

The reader needs to look at the beginning sound.

3. Use phonics to sound the word out

Use for words which are short and easy to sound out.

It was hard to see because of the fog.

Beginning sounds are especially important. If one sound is difficult, use a key word to jog their memory - *it's like **ch** in **chair**.*

4. Tell the student the word

Wh, gh and ph words are difficult as are words at the beginning of sentences and names.

When is your exam?

5. Give an explanation, the meaning, an opposite or a synonym.

The play was enjoyable.

6. Use structural analysis

The student can get part of the word by covering the other parts.

The girl was unhappy with her choice.

Tackle longer words by breaking them up. Encourage the recognition of smaller words or chunks.



NALA Share Fair

Friday, June 20th, 11:00 – 1:00

This event celebrates our students, tutors, friends and families as we end our program year, showcasing recipes and cultures of NALA students and volunteers. The NALA Share Fair will also kick-off our cookbook literacy project.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, FUN!