

Volunteer Newsletter

December 2016



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VOLUNTEER VIEWPOINT

Dear Volunteers,

Thanks to those of you who came out to help decorate the trailer for the Siler City Christmas Parade at the beginning of the month, and, as always, thanks to everyone for all the hard work you do with our students.

Remember that if you want to be sure to see me face-to-face to make an appointment. Even though we try to have someone in the office during our office hours, it may or may not be me who is there!

If you are a Siler City tutor who uses our office for tutoring, you will be hearing from me next week about a code and key for our new location at 606 East 3rd Street in Siler City. Please contact me if you haven't heard from me by Thursday, December 22nd.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are all having low-stress times in preparing for the holidays.

I am in awe of your dedication to our students!

~Desiree

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Break

Remember to discuss taking a break with your student(s) from Friday, December 23rd to Monday, January 2nd. If you are both willing and able to meet, that is fine. Just be aware of site closings that may be occurring over the holidays at the libraries and churches around the county. If you are in doubt, contact Desiree, who is happy to help find out holiday closings.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Come to our ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Chatham Chamber of Commerce to see the new building at 606 East 3rd Street in Siler City on Wednesday, January 25th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Chatham Habitat for Humanity and Mary Kay share our building and will be there as well! Light refreshments will be provided.



Mary Kay Facials for Free!

Athena Tillman is the Independent Mary Kay Sales Director who shares our building. We know our tutors work hard, and Athena offers skin care for men, women, and teens. Contact her for a free consulting session and facial. Call her at 919-548-2497 or 919-837-5179; email her at athenatillman@marykay.com; or visit her website at www.marykay.com/athenatillman.

RESOURCES

Leveling Text

Numerous tutors have asked how to know how hard or easy a book is. Did you know Microsoft Word has a special feature that allows you to find out the reading level? I recommend typing in 100 words of continuous text from the front of a book or article, 100 words from the middle, and 100 words from the back. Then, check out these directions from Microsoft on how to make sure you can see the leveling information: <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Test-your-document-s-readability-85b4969e-e80a-4777-8dd3-f7fc3c8b3fd2>.

A box will pop up with different numbers in it. Use the Flesh-Kincaid number. If it comes back 6.5, it means the average sixth grader in the fifth month of school should be able to read the text. If you do not have access to Word, you can also use this free tool to get the same number:
<http://www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php>.

Look back at your student(s)' most recent CASAS reading level, and you will know if the book or article is a good readability level!

Student Tardiness and Absences

Adult learners have a variety of challenges that can make it difficult for them to be punctual or present to every meeting despite their wishes to do so. We want the time of both our students and tutors to be honored. If your student is having troubles coming on time, consider the following:



1. Ask what is happening before your scheduled meeting. Our students lead busy work, family, and personal lives. If possible, change the time to start a little later.
2. Let your student know how long it takes you to get to your tutoring site. Remind him/her to call or text with enough notice to prevent you from driving across the county for no reason. If needed, use an app or website like Google Translate to make sure the message is clear or ask Loyda for assistance!
3. Contact Loyda and Desiree if a student has missed *two consecutive classes without contacting you*. We are your greatest support when communication breaks down.
4. Most importantly, be empathetic to your student(s)' individual situations. Adult learners benefit greatly from tutors who are respectful of personal issues that prevent them from studying as much as they would like to!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Miguel Anguiano Gonzalez



Miguel Anguiano Gonzalez is a recently naturalized US citizen who completed the citizenship class offered in Siler City at the First United Methodist Church on Saturdays from 10 am to 12 pm.

Miguel is from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and has lived in the US and Mexico on and off for a time. He now works for Mountaire Farms in the sanitation department. While he likes his work, he hopes to find a better shift time!

Miguel wants to continue his learning, so he recently met with Loyda to enroll in an ESOL program. The day he was to do his orientation, he had to leave work late but was determined to come in! I was lucky enough to witness his dedication firsthand in calling Loyda while he adjusted his schedule and even got to meet him in person.

Miguel is lucky to have four of his siblings as well as his mother living here in the US near him! He also has a 15 year old son.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Thanks to those of you who have already donated to Chatham Literacy this holiday season. It's because of contributions such as yours that, together, we are able to help students like Miguel realize their goals and dreams.

If you have not given, it's not too late. Please consider making a year-end [donation](#) to Chatham Literacy this holiday season. The gift of literacy is the gift that keeps on giving.

Thank you!

