

READ/Orange County, the adult literacy services of the OC Public Libraries, provides basic reading & writing help to adults throughout Orange County. www.readoc.org

Seasoned Readings from the Program Administrator

During the Holiday season, we are mindful of gifts the season brings, and hopeful of the coming new year. This most certainly includes the gift of literacy, the pursuit of lifelong learning, and a celebration of personal success.

I believe one of the reasons why our program continues to grow and receive abundant support from the community is because everyone understands the importance of literacy.

Whether you are a volunteer tutor, adult learner, office volunteer, OCPL partner, or Friends of READ/OC volunteer, you have encouraged a noble act of upholding the basic human right of literacy. You have helped provide a lifelong learning opportunity that enables others to realize their full potential.

On behalf of the more than 400 adult learners and their volunteer tutors, thank you for your time and dedication to the adult literacy efforts of READ/OC. These services could not have been provided without your commitment to lifelong learning and literacy.

Much appreciation also goes to our many community partners, our OC Community Resources colleagues, along with other county and community programs for everything you've done to support and encourage literacy to all you serve.

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones! From Matthew Le, Program Administrator, and the entire READ/OC team—Tangela, Rebecca, Barbara, and Carol.

Literacy Brings Out the Best in OC Adults!

Congratulations to each and every READ/OC learner and their volunteer tutors who have dedicated hundreds of hours, much planning and effort, and the personal commitments and determination toward reaching and achieving their learning goals!

Check inside this issue for more information and resources about setting and achieving personal learning goals for the coming year.

Volunteer to become a tutor. Encourage someone you know to help grow a learner. Become a Friend of READ/OC. Share this newsletter. Learn more at www.readoc.org and www.friendsroc.org Ask us how!



FRIENDS OF READ/OC CORNER

The Friends of READ/OC Board of Directors has expanded the gift card line to include an encouragement card, a birthday card, and a sympathy card, all with the message that the receiver of the card is honored with a donation to the work of READ/OC, via Friends of READ/OC. The cards sell for \$2.50 individually and pricing for assortments of the cards is generally around \$2.00 per card. The cards will be available at all events and fundraising projects so that our supporters and donors get into the habit of using these cards to honor special events in the lives of family and friends. The cards can also be purchased through the Friends of READ/OC website at www.friendsroc.org.

Friends of READ/OC also thanks the Barnes and Nobel staff and the volunteers who gave (and will give) their time and giftwrapping talents on December 12 and 13 at the Tustin store and December 21 and 24 at the Irvine store. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and provides much needed awareness for READ/OC and Friends of READ/OC.

Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors for Friends of READ/OC



Resource of the Month: My Goals for 2014? "If you don't know what you want, you will probably never get it."

This quote by Oliver Wendell Holmes points to the absolute necessity of identifying and defining **goals** to be successful in the daily journeys of life.

A goal is defined in Webster's dictionary as an "objective", "the purpose towards which an endeavor is directed." Common goals of college students might be getting a job to pay tuition; maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or better; joining a campus organization; getting a degree in five years.

It's hard to believe that many people go to college or start a new job with no clear idea of their goals. To be successful in life, clear goals are a necessity.

There are three types of goals and all are important: (these are just examples—insert your own goals)

Short-range or immediate: complete one part of my learning goals in weeks or a few months

Mid-range goal: complete half of my learning goals by summer

Long-range goal: be employed at my dream job by 2015

Establishing goals may seem difficult and overwhelming. The following guidelines can help you accomplish this important process:

- 1. Goals are related to values. It is difficult to pursue a goal that is not directly linked to something that is important and meaningful.
- 2. Goals are **specific**. A goal must state exactly what needs to be done. It can't be just some hopeful wish. A goal to stop procrastinating sounds nice, but it's not specific. A goal to "write a study plan by the end of the first week of class," can put someone on the track to success.
- 3. Goals are **measurable**. How will you know when you get there? What do you need to do, what information will you need, when must it be completed, and how will you know you have successfully reached your goal? Some goals will take a short time, others much longer. What are your deadlines?
- 4. Goals are **realistic**. Your goal must be attainable consider your personal resources and abilities. (If you have never taken an algebra class in high school, it is not realistic to register for Math 1050 before taking Math 100!)
- 5. Goals are **time-bound**. Always set a beginning and end date for your goal.
- 6. Goals are **written.** Committing a goal to writing makes it more concrete. It encourages you to be committed to completing it. A goal written on a piece of paper tacked to your bulletin board or as a daily reminder popping up in your cell phone is difficult to ignore or pretend it was never made. (Adapted from Utah State University Academic Resource Center's "GETTING WHAT YOU WANT How to Make Goals)

PAIGE TURNER

Paige Issues A "Well-Seasoned" Reader Challenge!

I recently came across a reading challenge as I searched online for ways to "Celebrate and Set New Learning Goals" for the coming year. What a great way for READ/OC tutors, learners, Friends and fellow literacy "promoters" to begin 2014! Whether you are a tutor, a learner, or librarian, a reluctant reader or someone who is just too busy to sit down and read for 10 minutes, set this goal to challenge yourself! Here are the rules:

Rule #1: The challenge runs from January 1 to March 31. (No cheating and starting before!)

Rule #2: You must read **three (3)** books. That averages out to 1 book a month...just a few pages every day! After that, it's up to you how much you want to read.

Rule #3: The books you choose to read can have...a food name in the title **OR** be about cooking/eating, **OR** have a place name in the title, **OR** be about someone's travel experience, **OR** be about a specific culture, **OR** be written by an author whose ethnicity or nationality is other than yours, **OR** be related to your personal learning goals...**It is up to you to choose how the 3 books you read fit the criteria.**

Rule #4: The books can be either fiction or non-fiction.

The purpose is to begin 2014 with a journey, a new adventure. Take yourself some place out of the ordinary. Go on a "literary trip," whether it is challenging your expectations, discovering a new place, achieving a personal goal, or just enjoying the experience of reading about places, people, or food. (You can also bring along a friend – a reading, learning, or "travelling partner"!)

It's time to take the next step – select a book, set a goal, and get started! Don't know where to start? Go to the library. Ask a librarian, a friend or a total stranger to recommend a good book to read. Along the way, drop us a note or send us an email and tell us about your journey!

When you are done, share your adventure and encourage another to do the same! Send a note to READ/OC, Attention: Paige Turner!

AND then...consider joining other "Well-Seasoned" Readers at the 8th Annual Literary Orange on Saturday, April 5! Read more about it at the library or online at www.literaryorange.org

Paige

HOLIDAY TIME IS FUN FAMILY LEARNING TIME!

Reading the Holidays

This time of year is great for families learning together! Here are a few ideas to consider for the entire family to celebrate reading and lifelong learning.

- Read and write family recipes for holiday meals and treats, and then share with family and friends.
- Read the holiday greetings your family receives in the mail (and write holiday greetings to mail or email
 to friends and family. Even the younger members of your family can help with names on gift tags and
 add their special artistic touches!)
- Read about holiday traditions and write a family holiday story about yours.
- If books are among gifts you receive, make time to read some to one another or together as a family.
- Write and send holiday and thank you messages to family and friends.

PROUD MOMENTS

Our tutors and learners have had many successes this fall! Here are just a few of their achievements taken from monthly reports:

- Brigith is starting to use past and future tenses correctly.
- Yun composed a letter to her daughter's teacher asking if she can volunteer in the classroom.
- Katie is learning to write her letters on lined paper rather than tracing pre-printed alphabet sheets.
- This year at back to school night, Sandra was able to speak English with her son's teacher. She did not even attempt it last year.
- Rosa went to a parent meeting and was comfortable participating without a translator.
- Richard has been reading to his nephews, and his wife commented on how much his reading has improved.
- After working with his tutor for about a year, Andy feels ready to continue lifelong learning on his own! He now regularly reads up to an hour a week on his own, and he feels comfortable reading his mail and papers for his business and personal affairs. Congratulations, Andy!
- Dina passed her citizenship exam.
- Carla started taking ESL classes through Saddleback College, and decided that she is ready to continue lifelong learning without the assistance of a tutor.
- Carlos read a short story, "Noisy Neighbor" and laughed a lot as he related to the humor.
- Rosalba and Sue are enjoying reading books together, and no longer feel self-conscious about words the learner doesn't know.
- Bernard got a part time job.
- Barry learned 70% of the words on his trucking test as sight words.
- Rose is starting to sound out unfamiliar words instead of just asking for her tutor's help.
- Waseema was able to study the citizenship test questions on her own while on vacation.
- Sandra always does her practice assignments, and feels like she is comprehending more. She is very interested in US history and civil rights.
- Guadalupe read and understood three small books in the month of October.
- Kim is using text messages and email to communicate with her tutor.
- Rose is steadily improving her spelling and starting to use the dictionary more frequently.
- Viridiana passed her written driver's test.
- Beatrice has made great progress towards preparing for her GED. She has decided to continue studying on her own and enter community college next year.
- Alireza decided that he is ready to continue lifelong learning on his own without the aid of a tutor.
- Asai was able to identify and count money successfully.
- Samir decided that he is ready to take a formal citizenship class without the aid of a tutor.
- Oliva read all of Green Eggs and Ham and was very excited to finish the whole book.

Tutors, please remember to submit your monthly reports. We want to let everyone know about the accomplishments you and your learners are making!

January-February 2014

Mark Your Calendars and Tell A Friend or 2 or 3...

Many adult learners are waiting for help! Volunteer as a tutor and change a life!

Tue., Jan. 1 Tue., Jan. 7	New Year Holiday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-8pm
Thu., Jan. 9	Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library, 7-8pm
Sat., Jan. 12	Tutor Training Orientation @ READ/OC office 1-2 pm or 6-7pm Family Reading Time @ University Park Library, 10am-12pm
Sat. Jan. 18	Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm
Mon., Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Holiday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed
Sat., Jan. 26	Tutor Training Workshop Session 1 @ READ/OC office, 9am-4pm
Sat, Feb. 1	Tutor Training Workshop Session 2 @ READ/OC office, 9am-4pm
Tue., Feb. 5	Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-8pm
Thu., Feb. 6	Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm
Sat., Feb. 8	Family Reading Time @ University Park Library, 10am-12
Tue., Feb. 12	Lincoln's Birthday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed
Fri., Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day—Read to Your Sweetheart!
Sat., Feb. 15	Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm
Mon., Feb. 18	Washington's Birthday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed
Sat., Mar. 1	Tutor Training Follow-Up Workshop, 9-11am



Start the New Year Right!

Become a READ/OC Tutor and Give an Adult A New Start for Success!

Next READ/OC Tutor Training begins with information meetings on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 1-2 pm or 6-7pm. The Tutor Training Workshop will be Saturdays, January 25 and February 1 from 9am-4pm The follow-up workshop will be on Saturday, March 1 from 9-11am.

Call today! 714-566-3070. Email: readoc@occr.ocgov.com
This Year, Change the Lives of Two People in Orange County...
Yours and Another Adult Learner









