



READ WRITES

For You and About You

JUNE 2011

Learner's Persistence Pays Off



Learners often seek help for improving their reading and writing skills because they are motivated by an immediate challenge before them, such as helping a child with school work or getting a better job. Others are focused on a strong desire to achieve a long term, often lifelong, desire. Current

needs or a journey to reach a lifelong desire, immediate successes toward a goal helps learners make connections to other learning opportunities.

Samia came to READ/OC nearly 12 years ago with the immediate need to help her children with school work, return to school herself to get a better job, and eventually operate her own business. Samia dreamed of receiving her certification in the nursing field and did not let changes of tutors and challenges at work deter her from her plans.

A few tutors came and went throughout Samia's journey. Still Samia persisted in her efforts toward her goal. In January 2007, she began working with a new tutor on the Wilson Reading System to help her better understand English language skills and improve her grammar, writing, and speaking skills. At first, she wasn't too sure about working through this in-depth reading system, but her tutor encouraged her to try it for a bit longer.

(continued on page 3)

"Why I Went to OC Read"

I went to OCRead for different reasons. The important reason I went to OC READ is for myself. Another reason is for my family so I can help them. Finally so I can help my husband with his business. All this will help me be more confident with myself.

Gaining self-confidence for me is to be better educated. Studying my sight words will help me with my vocabulary. Having a better vocabulary will help me communicate with people. Weekly writing will help me be better with grammar, spelling and punctuation. Working on all these things will help me get my GED.

Another important reason I went to OC read is so I can help my children with homework and school projects. The older their getting the harder it is for me to help them, and I don't want to feel useless. I also feel that I need to communicate with their teacher and be able to understand what she is telling me or email her back with out spelling words wrong. I think with me being able to volunteer in my children's class will make me feel more comfortable with my self. When I go out to a nice restaurant I want to be able to read the whole menu with out getting stuck, that can get pretty frustrating.

(continued on page 3)





The monthly report winner for May is Grace Kim.

Congratulations Kim!

Monthly Reports are due by the 5th of every month. Get yours in on time for a chance to be next month's winner and receive a \$10 gift card to Starbucks.

If you have missed sending in your Monthly Reports, it is not too late to catch up! READ/OC wants to recognize you and your learner for your efforts at AFPAC in June and needs to receive all of your monthly reports for the past year! Remember, the hours you report each month are the only record READ has of your learner's hours!

Of course you can still access monthly report forms online, submit them by email to readoc@occr.ocgov.com or mail them to READ/OC, 1501 E.

St. Andrew Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92705

Proud Moments



March was a very successful month for our tutors and learners! Here are just a few of their achievements in April and May, taken from monthly reports:

- Sharon's learner has decided that she no longer needs tutoring, and is ready to continue studying on her own.
- Barbara's learner successfully presented her first Power Point.
- Barbara's learner is reading stories to her 3 year old grandchild in English.
- Debby's learner sent her first emails, composed a resume, and applied for two jobs.
- Marianne's learner read *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks and submitted an essay to this newsletter (see page 1).
- Valerie's learner learned to tell time.
- Cathleen's learner got a promotion at work.
- Karen's learner is planning parent-teacher conversations with the parents of her preschool charges.
- Ron's learner finished reading "Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allen Poe.
- Patrice's learner is reading a book to her children.
- Hal's learner was able to write a check, post transactions on her checkbook registry, make a bank deposit by filling out a bank deposit slip, and follow the instructions on the ATM machine to ask about bank balances and withdrawals.
- Jason's learner used the OCTA website to figure out new bus routes to take to work. He no longer has to rely on anyone for a ride.
- Cathy's learner managed to make it to nearly all of his tutoring sessions, even though he worked six straight weeks without a day off.
- Sommer's learner passed her phlebotomy class with an A+ and passed her externship with a good recommendation.
- Gayle's learner was asked to volunteer to coordinate after school enrichment classes at her children's elementary school.
- Joan's learner started a computer class at the Braille Institute.
- Barbara's learner registered online by herself for a college course at Saddleback.
- Katie's learner met her goal of reading "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" and "Goodnight Moon" to her children. She also completed a school permission form.
- Jude's learner is happy to have set a SMART goal.
- Alice's learner was sworn in as a US citizen on May 26th.
- Ron's learner read an entire short story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez in one sitting.

Please remember to submit your monthly reports. We want to let everyone know about your accomplishments!

Learner's Persistence Pays Off

(continued from page 1)

In December 2009, Samia accomplished what few learners do, successfully completing all levels of the Wilson program. Samia then persisted on her own toward her dream. She began studying at Cypress College while still working, helping her daughters with homework and participating at their school. Last month, Samia called READ/OC with good news to share. She had, at last, passed her exams to earn her certification in nursing! Samia has worked long and hard to achieve her goals and her persistence has paid off.

With her CNA certification come more opportunities to pursue her dreams. Success is contagious. Samia continues with her nursing studies while encouraging others toward lifelong learning. Regardless of our own learning and skill challenges, we can all be encouraged by Samia's efforts and persistence for continued growth, lifelong learning and then be driven by the opportunities that will follow each success.



Words from a READ/OC Learner: "Why I Went to OC Read"

(continued from page 1)

The final reason why I chose OC read is so I can help my husband with his business by writing email to his customers. Being able to help out writing personal and business checks to give my husband a break because he does work late at night and I feel like I can help out with that. Understanding important mail we get at home with out asking someone what does that mean will be nice.

It has been about seven weeks now, and yes I have seen little improvements already. I do feel more comfortable reading books, being able to reply to texts when I get them and emails. It is still pretty frustrating at times but I can't give up. I cant' wait to see how much I will learn from now till next year! My goal is to get my GED, I don't know how long that will take maybe a year or two.

Anonymous Learner

Editor's Note: This authentic writing is printed without edits, just as submitted by the learner. Her message is a wonderful explanation of why we do what we do. READ/Orange County, our many dedicated volunteer tutors, and faithful adult learners are committed to lifelong learning and encouraging everyone to read and write better. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a meaningful opportunity to change a life for the better, and in turn change the quality of your own life as well as the quality of the community, call READ/Orange County today. Many other adults have similar goals as those above and are currently waiting for a tutor to help them achieve their goals.

If you are reading this line, call the READ/OC office to claim your "reader of the month prize!"

FROC CORNER



Arrrrgh you ready? It's that time again!

Call it AFPAC, call it the READ picnic or the recognition event. Call it whatever you want, but just make sure you join us on June 25, 2011 at Irvine Regional Park.

At our Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration (AFPAC) we bring READ together to recognize all the wonderful volunteers that have contributed their time, talents and treasure to our program throughout the year. There are hundreds of volunteers giving thousands of hours each year, and that is truly something to celebrate.

If you've joined us for a picnic in the past you know what to expect. We try to make sure we bring all the favorites back each year, as well as adding a few new surprises.

This year we'll have lots of fun to keep the kids entertained. We have goodies to give away and there will be games, crafts and coloring, story time and a few surprise visitors wandering around. You can have a caricature drawn, too. And this year's photo opportunity is shaping up nicely, so look for a surprise there. And how about the Hokey Pokey? "Put your peg leg in, put your peg leg out" Hard to resist!

For the adults, if you come for the food you won't be disappointed. We have plans for all our favorite picnic fare. Be sure to let us know if there is something special we might add to the menu for next year. A barbeque at the park on a beautiful Summer day. Does it get any better?

If you would like extra tickets for the opportunity drawing items there are a couple of ways to get them. In addition to the ticket you receive when you check in, you'll get extra tickets for playing some of the games. Look in your goodie bag for the special treasure map and once you have figured it out, you can get an extra ticket for that too.

If you are interested in one day volunteer opportunities, we can use your help at the picnic. Please call the READ office at 714-566-3070, let them know you want to help, and we will contact you to let you know how your time can help make the picnic a great success.

If games, food and prizes aren't enough, then just come to help us celebrate the wonderful volunteers that make READ's success possible. After all, our volunteers are the real reason we are here.

See you there!





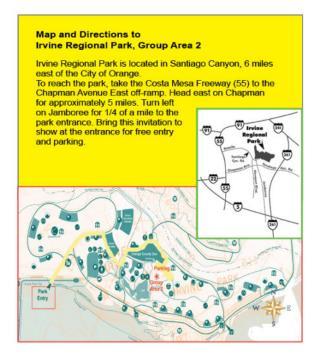
OUTREACH NEWS



We are currently working on building a library of tutor/learner/staff videos that can be used to tell the READ/OC story. We would like to thank the learners and tutors who are participating. If you would like to share your story on why you got involved with READ/OC, please contact the office at 714-566-3070.

Your story will make a difference!

If you would like more information on how to have our Outreach Coordinator come to your place of business or talk to your group, please call 714-566-3070 and ask for Karen!





Join Us on Saturday, June 25th, 2011



Picnic Food!
Awards!
Games!
Family Photos!
Drawing Prizes!
Train and Zoo Tickets!

Recognition Gifts for all who Attend!

See You At AFPAC!

2011 Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2011

Matey, you are invited to Join READ/OC for our

Time: 12:00-3:30 p.m.

Location: Irvine Regional Park Group Area 2

Lunch will be served from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Bring this invitation to show at the entrance for free entry and parking.

Arr, call 714-566-3070 to let us know you are coming!



Tips for A Great Time at AFPAC (All you need to know about AFPAC)

What AFPAC is *not*: It is not an insurance company with a duck for a spokesperson.

AFPAC is the Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration for READ/OC. It is a great time with games and fun, prizes, good food, books, celebration and (did we mention) FUN for the entire family!

AFPAC is a hearty treasure for all "Bookineers."

- Bring your invitation. It is your free ticket into the park.
- Bring the reminder insert inside your invitation. It shows the many areas to park near our picnic location.
- Bring your family to share in the fun, games and prizes.
- Bring your appetite to enjoy a wonderful BBQ picnic lunch provided by Friends of READ/OC.
- Bring you're a hat for shade and if you have your new READ hat from last year, bring it!
- Bring your walking shoes so you can enjoy the park!
- Bring your smiles and laughter to enjoy all the fun!

This Summer Might Be Hot, But Summer Reading is Really Cool!



School's may be on a summer break, but reading opportunities don't take a vacation! July is the month for summer reading programs at the library with lots of fun for the whole family. Be sure to check out the special events planned at your library. This summer you can travel the world, journey into space, travel back in time....so many worlds, so little time! And, the best part is, it doesn't need to cost a you thing! (Unless you forget to return your library books back to the library on time!)

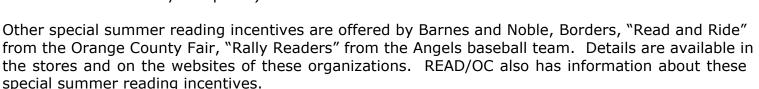
Read 5 books this summer. Read to yourself. Share with a friend. Tutors and Learners read together. Read to your children - Have your children read to you! Read storybooks, novels, cookbooks, paperback books, audiobooks and e-books!!!! **JUST READ!**

This year's summer reading theme is **One World, Many Stories** and it is a perfect encouragement for the adult learners, their families, all READ tutors and volunteers to share their stories during tutoring sessions, in journals and other writing activities. Read stories written by others and celebrate lifelong learning in your tutoring sessions, with your children and family throughout the summer.

In addition to the great programs at your public library, there are many special opportunities in the community this summer to reinforce and promote literacy. READ/OC learners, tutors and volunteers, take the Read 5 Challenge! During the months of July and August, read 5 books on your own, with your family, children, or as a tutor/learner pair. Keep track of your reading on your reading log and send it to READ/OC to receive a prize and certificate. To begin, simply request a reading log from READ/OC or download it from the READ/OC website and then start reading!

The Read 5 Challenge from California Library Association (CLA) encourages everyone to read 5 books during the summer. Then for each book, share in writing the title of the book, author and a sentence or two about what you liked or learned from the story.

Tutors can help learners with their writing about the books they read on their own or with their family or children. Send the summer reading reflections to READ/OC (include with monthly reports, send by email or fax or put in an envelope and ask the library to send it to READ/OC), and READ/OC will send the learner a prize! (Don't forget to include your name so we can send you a prize.)



WWW.READOC.ORG





READ/OC SUMMER FOR READING

FZFLWESPPSPUGSG RMRJRXELIEDGTRJ IEFERYISRRZOEOO EDVZNULSRRAAQT NLEARNINGEDTAUA D N C O S S M O R I N U E T SMDLTVAWNEMRUS HNAESWFGYZMFANC FONYRARBILKMI GCEGNELLAHCNUZ L EGRBFBLSDMIGSSJ OYZRNYOPZAEHWMZ GHUXHQMORXKLCEI AFPACODTKDNCJHY NJPGCLZHNSSXRIA



Find the following words used in this newsletter issue in the above word search puzzle. Words appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, sideways and backwards.



BOOKS
CHALLENGE
FAMILIES
FRIENDS
GOALS
LEARNERS
LEARNING
LIBRARY
PERSISTENCE
PIRATES
READING
SUMMER
TRAINING

AFPAC



Ms. Paige Turner (Fun advice for tutors and learners)



Dear Paige,

A friend recently told me about READ/OC and the need for volunteer tutors to help adults to learn to read. She encouraged me to consider becoming a volunteer tutor, but first I have a question:

How is it possible that an adult who grew up here and went to school here could not be able to read and write?

Potential Tutor

Dear Potential,

There are many reasons why adults seek help from READ/OC to improve their reading and writing. Some grew up in families that moved several times; the new schools and many different teachers, resulted in gaps in their learning. For others, their reading readiness skills developed at different times when they were young children, making them miss timely learning connections with fundamental reading and language skills taught in school. Others grew up in homes where adults were not present to read with them, or help them with homework and learning outside of school.

Between Kindergarten and 3rd grade, children go to school to learn to read. From 4th grade on, children go to school to read to learn. Children who do not have the "basics" down by the 3rd grade struggle with reading, writing, and other skills throughout their school experience. Older children may have a variety of learning styles, methods and behaviors that do not always fit with the learning environment or situation which causes challenges for learners, teachers and parents.

For others, English may not have been their home language, so reading, writing, and getting help with homework in English was a challenge for the entire family. Some came here as adults from other countries and struggled to learn English while also getting work, making friends, and adapting to the culture. Some may have had no opportunity to attend school in their home countries. Still others may have experienced a variety of challenges with work and family that has interrupted or affected their ability to learn and tie it all together.

Whatever the reason, it is never too late to learn and grow. Many believe that and are waiting for help. Give tutoring a try! You may be surprised how much you will learn from the experience and from your learner!

Here's to Lifelong Learning, Paige

Missed an issue?

Did you know that previous issues of our READ Writes newsletter can be accessed online at www.readoc.org? Check out our website, often!



There is a great collection of resources and advice brewing on our website. Review the previous issues of our newsletter for ideas, activities, and suggestions to use in your tutoring sessions. And remember to share it with a friend when they ask you "what's new?"

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Ms. Paige Turner

If you are interested in contributing an article for READ WRITES, contact us at 714-566-3070.

When you have finished reading this newsletter, please share it with someone so they will know about the Thursday, August 4 services and volunteer opportunities

Click here to go directly to the **READ/OC Calendar of Events**



June / July 2011 Calendar

Tuesday, June 21 Saturday, June 25

Month of July

Monday, July 4

Tuesday, July 5

Thursday, July 7 Saturday, July 9

Tuesday, July 12

Wednesday, July 13

Thursday, July 14 Tuesday, July 19

Thursday, July 21

Thursday, July 28

Tuesday, August 2 Tuesday, August 3

Summer's Here! Time for Grads, Dads, Sun, Fun and READING!

May June 2011 Calendar

First Day of Summer!

AFPAC @ Irvine Regional Park, 12-3:30 pm. Call READ/OC to let us know you and your family will join us! Summer Reading - One World, Many Stories @ your library. **READ!**

4th of July Holiday – all libraries and READ/OC office

will be closed for the holiday.

Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:15-7:45pm

READ Jr. Training @ READ/OC HQ, 6-8:30pm READ Jr. Training @ READ/OC HQ, 6-8:30pm Family Reading Time @ Irvine University Park,

10am-12pm

Tutor Training Orientation @ Fullerton Hunt Library,

Tutor Training Orientation @ Irvine Heritage Park

Library, 6-8pm

Learner Orientation @ Orange Main Library, 6-8pm Family Reading Time @ Stanton Family Resource

Center, 6-8pm

Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library. 6-8pm Tutor Training Workshop (TTW) 1A @ READ/OC HQ,

5:30-8:30pm

Tutor Training Workshop (TTW) 1B @ READ/OC HQ,

5:30-8:30pm

Learner Orientation @ El Toro Library, 6-8

Tuesday, July 26 **Tutor Training Workshop**

(TTW) 2A @ READ/OC HQ, 5:30-8:30pm

Tutor Training Workshop (TTW) 2B @ READ/OC HQ,

5:30-8:30pm

Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:15-7:45 pm Tutor Training Workshop (TTW) 3A @ READ/OC HQ,

5:30-8:30pm

Tutor Training Workshop (TTW) 3B @ READ/OC HQ,

5:30-8:30pm

Reading Is HOT This Summer! **Keep Cool With A Book!**









READ/OC is the adult literacy services of OC Public Libraries and OC Community Resources