

READ WRITES

For You and About You

February - March 2011

Profile: READ Jr. Tutor Vyvy Pham



You have often heard us talking in recent years about READ Jr, the new program designed to help our learners with grade school aged children. In this program, teen tutors work with adult learners and their children aged 6-12 years old to help them learn together as a

family. The children get direct help with their reading and writing skills, while the parents learn how to better support their children in school. The program has generated a lot of excitement, and we are always looking for new tutors and learner families to help it take off! Here are the words of Vyvy Pham, one of our original READ Jr. tutors:

I first heard of this program through Carol Tsai during the summer going into my junior year. Right before the summer started, I was told by my guidance counselor that I needed community service to make my transcript look better, so I applied as a volunteer for the Friends of the Library Bookstore. Carol Tsai, the volunteer coordinator at the time, gave me my weekly shift at the bookstore for the summer. When I met her for the first time, I asked her if she knew of another way to earn even more community service hours on top of the library shifts. She then told me about how she was trying to get a program to start and that I should attend the first meeting.

After learning what the program was about through the first meeting and orientation, I knew that I wanted to be a tutor through Read Jr. I wanted to help younger kids that have a difficulty with English because I remember struggling with reading and writing when I was younger. Through the program, I was able to help an extraordinary girl who had a great imagination write her stories down on paper. The reason why I loved tutoring her was because we didn't have a tutor-learner relationship only existent in the library, we also made a friendship outside of the library that consists of communication through the phone almost daily. I knew that for every hour a week I put aside for her, I was not only able to help her write better, but give her the confidence that she needed to further her education.



I am so proud to say that I was a part of this program because I know that younger kids benefit from each session and are able to take away something important.



Proud Moments



Congratulations to our tutors and learners as they continue to work towards their goals! Here are just a few of their achievements in January, taken from monthly reports:

The monthly report winner

for January is

Ann Thede

Congratulations Ann!

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.

Speaking of Monthly Reports, don't forget the READ/OC Branch Sign-In Book has blank copies of Monthly Report Forms. It also has notebook paper, and other useful forms.

This is also a reminder to be sure to sign-in the READ/OC notebook each time you meet in the library.

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

- Elinor's learner got a new job.
- Nu's learner filled out a form for her son's school.
- Charlene's learner is writing about her childhood experiences and sharing her writing with her family.
- Awilda's learner's progress with her English skills has resulted in better job performance and a salary increase.
- Fredricka's learner has gained the confidence to start suggesting reading and writing topics in their sessions.
- Beth's learner is gaining confidence in writing sentences with health related theme.
- Fredricka's learner passed her CPR training and got her BLS Certificate.
- Nu's learner filled out a form on her own, after some practice and encouragement from her tutor.
- Sophie's learner gained the confidence to speak with the branch manager at the library where they meet.

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

Rebecca's Back!!!
And she wants to know,
"Where are your Monthly Reports?"



Welcome Back, Rebecca!

Ahoy Maties!

Save the Date: June 25, 2011

Talk like a Pirate Day rolls around each Fall, but June 25, 2011 will be your opportunity to **play like a pirate!** We're getting our sails set for another great family picnic. Join us on June 25, 2011 for the 17th Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration at Irvine Regional Park. This event, also known as AFPAC, is our celebration of the best of the best. That's you, all our READ/OC volunteers! You've heard us say it before, and this year it is more appropriate than ever. It's all Hands on Deck!

We are just getting started planning all the extras that make the day fun, but you can be sure there will be some great stuff happening throughout the day. We are bringing back some of the favorites from years past, and cooking up some new ideas. Definitely a full day with something for everyone.

All the kids had so much fun with the midway games last year, we will definitely have similar games this year. Even grown up kids can play these games, Mom and Dad! We encourage you to get up and wander around and see everything that is going on. Remember game winners will get extra tickets to increase their chance of winning one of the opportunity drawing gifts!

Working throughout the day will be the crew of volunteers prepping, grilling, and serving the great food you enjoy each year. We have been very fortunate in recent years to have a large group of volunteers from Wells Fargo willing to cook and serve, and they will be back again this year.

Although we make sure we have great food and fun games at the picnic, the main reason we have the event is to recognize the wonderful volunteers that keep READ going. Without the dedication of these folks, we would have no reason to have a picnic. FROC would have no purpose without the READ volunteers we honor.

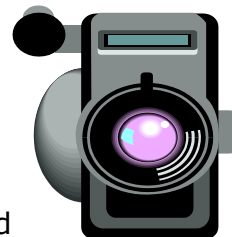
If you would like to get involved with the preparations or help us on the day of the picnic, please let us know. Call the READ office at 714-566-3070 with your interest, and we will contact you to let you know how you can help make our 17th picnic the best one yet!

Watch your mail for more information as June 25, 2011 gets closer!



OUTREACH NEWS

We are currently working on video interviews with learners and tutors. Our goal is to build a video library for Public Service Announcements to be used when going out to speak to businesses and community organizations.



If you are a learner or tutor and would like to participate in our video interviews, please call the READ/OC office at 714-566-3070 or send an email to readoc@occr.ocgov.com.

Thank you,

Karen Ruhl
Outreach Coordinator



Find us on
Facebook

Views From a New Tutor

At a recent Tutor Training Workshop in January, Carolina Handojo shared the following reflection about volunteering to help another person to read better.

"My perception of life has changed since I started this workshop. READ/Orange County has shown me reality and other sides of life. Through the tutoring program I get to experience team work and charity. Working together and talking to other volunteers allows me to form a team with others and at the same time allows me to develop friendships. Charity is seen through the donation of time of the volunteers. I'm so glad that there are so many people willing to donate their time to help the illiterate to read and write, and make a difference in someone's life."

We are sincerely grateful to Carolina and all of our READ/OC volunteers who partner with their learners to experience together the joy and power of reading and learning, and who also work as part of a larger team of volunteers with great personal conviction and dedication to literacy to make a difference within our community.

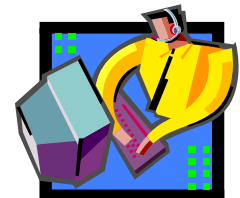
If you would like to join Carolina as part of the READ/OC team of volunteers who help change lives, contact READ/OC. The next Tutor Training Workshop begins in March, and many adult learners are waiting for your help.

Do you have a special skill that you would like to share?

We are looking for volunteers to teach short-term "Special Interest" classes to help reduce our waiting list.

The classes will cover subjects such as:

- job skills
- basic computer skills
- communication skills
- citizenship
- other life skills pertaining to learners' needs and interests



If you would like to share your talents in any of these areas, please contact the READ office via email or phone, and let us know the days and times that you might be available. Also, if there is a subject you would like to teach that is not mentioned above, please tell us about it. A brief training is required prior to teaching a class.

READ/Orange County - 714-566-3070

SCLLN Conference is Saturday, March 5 at Buena Park Holiday Inn.

Learners and Tutors:
Plan now to attend.



Limited scholarships are available.
Registration payment is due March 1.

Contact READ/OC for a registration form, information on the excellent workshops, and scholarship information.

If you are reading this line, call the READ/OC office to claim your "Reader Of The Month" prize.



Le'go those LEGOS!

Kids & teens love building with LEGOS, and libraries love having great programs. OC Public Libraries are planning LEGOS programs at several branches in 2011—but we need lots of LEGOS to make it happen.

Please donate! New or used LEGOS and DUPLOS can be dropped off at any OC Public Libraries branch. (Only that brand please, so all the pieces are compatible.) If you have a few left from when your kids were little, or hundreds of them just getting in your way, we would love to have them. Please bring them in a bag or box for easy handling. We promise to give them a good home—and your donation is tax deductible. Our goal is to collect 100 POUNDS of LEGOS!

Thanks! And be sure to keep an eye out for our LEGOS programs.

www.ocpl.org



**Thank you to all who have helped
READ/OC and OC Public Libraries
"Open Doors" to Literacy throughout
Orange County.**

Resource of the Month: The READ/OC Sign-In Book

Do you sign-in every time you meet for tutoring at the library or visit a READ/OC Literacy Center?

There is a READ/OC Sign-In Book at every OCPL Branch and Literacy Center. *And it is so much more than a sign-in book!*

The first good reason to open the READ/OC Sign-In Book and sign is so others know you are there! It is helpful for library staff to know you are meeting with your learner at their branch. *(This is especially important in case there is an emergency.)* And it can be helpful for you if you are planning to use the Literacy Center and you can see that there is already another tutor who arrived previously and may already be in the Literacy Center. If that happens, simply ask the library staff to help you. Library staff are always ready to assist tutors in finding another appropriate place to meet with your learner.

At libraries where there is a READ/OC Literacy Center, there is also a section in the Sign-In Book for tutors to "reserve" the day and time they meet with their learner. In addition, it is good to note your meeting time on the calendar in the Literacy Center so other tutors and library staff are aware of the need for additional tutoring space.

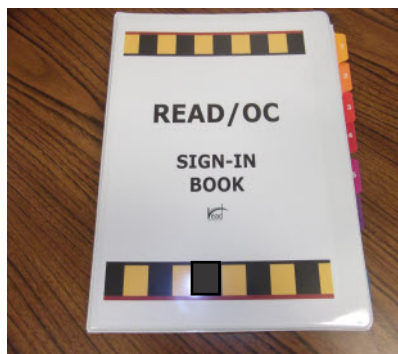
There are other good and helpful reasons to open the READ/OC Sign-In Book!

Special announcements from READ/OC and a current copy of the READ/OC newsletter are usually found in the inside pocket. In addition, a current copy of News For You, should be in the pocket of the Sign-In Book. If you use this copy in tutoring session, please remember to put it back inside the Sign-In Book so others can also use it. If the News For You copy is not there, please let READ/OC know. If you plan to use News For You on a regular basis with your learner, let us know and we will send a copy to your attention.

The READ/OC Sign-In Book also contains information about READ/OC to share with others who might be interested in becoming a tutor or other volunteer opportunities. There are other helpful forms and information for tutors' use: a tutor job description, master copies of lesson plan forms, role goal maps, roles & goals surveys, extra notebook paper, and a listing of all READ/OC Literacy Center locations. There is also a supply of monthly report forms, just in case you need one!

Lastly, the Sign-In Book provides the READ/OC staff with a record of tutoring hours and READ/OC participation at each branch. This helps the READ/OC team coordinate with library staff and provide valuable data about hours of volunteer efforts by READ/OC tutors and volunteer. Be sure to "check out" the READ/OC Sign-In Book next time you are at the Library!

*Remember to sign in the READ/OC Sign-In Book.
We want your autograph!*



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



Dear Paige,

I am working hard with my tutor to read and write better and learn many things. My son is 7 years old and has trouble with his school work and it is hard for me to help him. How can I get help for my son?

-- A learning parent

Dear Learning Parent,

First, let me congratulate you for making the effort to improve your skills. Your actions are the first help for your son, because he will learn from your efforts that learning is lifelong. This will be an encouragement to him to keep trying.

I encourage you to talk with his teacher and ask how you can help your son at home. Then, share this with your tutor who can possibly include this information in your tutoring sessions and as a practice at home with your son.

I also want to encourage you to talk with the READ/OC team about the help your son needs. READ/OC now offers additional help to their learners who have children in elementary school. READ Jr. is the latest component of READ/OC. High school students are trained as volunteer READ Jr. tutors to work with you and your son together on reading, writing and homework help. The READ Jr. tutor can help your child while showing you how *you* can help him at home. Together, you and your son can be "learning partners."

-- Paige Turner

*If you know of teens interested in volunteering as a READ Jr. tutor, encourage them to contact READ/OC. Learners with elementary age children are waiting for their help. Students must be at least 15 years old, a sophomore in high school and have at least a B average. They must complete a brief application and attend training. **The next READ Jr. tutor training will be Tuesday, March 8 and Thursday, March 10 at READ/OC HQ from 6-8:30pm.***



Ahoy Maties! Save this date for our annual celebration!

**Saturday, June 25, 2011
12 - 3:30 p.m.
Irvine Regional Park**

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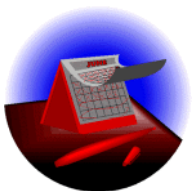
Karen Ruhl

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 services and volunteer opportunities of READ/OC.

[Click here to go directly to the READ/OC Calendar of Events](#)



ORANGE COUNTY
OC Community Resources
Our Community. Our Commitment.

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ORANGE COUNTY

ORANGE COUNTY
OC Public Libraries
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Accredited
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AMERICA

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

1501 E. St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: 714-566-3070 • www.READOC.org

March 2011 Calendar

Tuesday, March 1

**Women's History Month – "Our History is Our Strength"
Read a Woman's biography or Write Your Own!**

**March is National Nutrition Month –
"Eat Right With Colors"**

Read a Cookbook, Share a Recipe or Show Children How to Eat Their Colors!

Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-7:45 pm

**Read Across America Day! Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday-
Read a Seuss Book & Enjoy Green Eggs and Ham with the Cat in the Hat!**

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8 pm

National Grammar Day – Review and Use the Writing Process!

SCLLN Conference @ Buena Park Holiday Inn, 7am-4pm

National Newspapers in Education Week – Read News For You or another newspaper in print or online edition!

Family Reading Time @ Taft/Orange Library, 6:15-7:45 pm

Learner Orientation @ Westminster Library, 6-8pm

READ Jr. Training #1 @ READ/OC HQ, 6-8:30pm

World Read Aloud Day – Celebrate the Power of Words Especially Those Shared From One Person to Another!

Family Reading Time @ Stanton Family Resource Center, 6-8pm

Learner Orientation @ Katie Wheeler Library in Irvine, 6-8pm

Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library in Costa Mesa, 6-8pm

READ Jr. Training #2 @ READ/OC HQ, 6-8:30pm

Family Reading Time @ Irvine University Park Library, 10am-12pm

TTW Final Session @ READ/OC HQ, 9am-12pm

Quarterly Tutor Meeting (QTM) @ READ/OC HQ, 6-8pm

Family Reading Time @ El Modena/Orange Library

Quarterly Tutor Meeting (QTM) @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm

It's St. Patrick's Day! Come share the luck of reading!

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm

Family Reading Time @ Irvine Heritage Park Library, 10am-12pm

TTW Orientation @ Aliso Viejo Library, 6-8 pm

Tell A Friend! TUTORS Needed!

TTW Orientation @ Orange Main Library, 6-8 pm

Invite A Friend! TUTORS Needed!

TTW – Session 1 @ READ/OC HQ, 9am-4pm

Wednesday, March 2

Thursday, March 3

Friday, March 4

**Saturday, March 5
March 7-11**

Tuesday, March 8

Wednesday, March 9

Thursday, March 10

Saturday, March 12

Tuesday, March 15

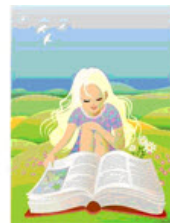
Thursday, March 17

Saturday, March 19

Tuesday, March 22

Wednesday, March 23

Saturday, March 26



*This Spring Bloom With A Book!
READ To Someone You Love.*