

READ WRITES

For You and About You
November - December 2011

Holiday Message from the Administrator



Leaves have turned golden, air has turned extra crisp, and music has changed tunes; all is pointing to the approaching Holiday Season that begins with the beautiful celebration of Thanksgiving. I love the mornings of this time of year. It's when I get to spend time alone, with a cup of coffee, thinking of the life blessings and absorbing the joy of gratitude.

One of the greatest joys for me at this time of the year is to get to say "Thank You" to our Tutors, Learners, other Volunteers, Partners in service, and Co-workers. Through your work, you bring hope and you create confidence. Through your work, you build community and you enhance quality of life. S.I. Hayakawa once said *"It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish."* Here at READ/OC, with the help of our Volunteers and Partners in service, and with the participation of our Learners, the Staff and I get to see the truth of Hayakawa's saying on a daily basis, and we are grateful.

I thank you for your continued inspiration and wish you and your loved ones a very happy Holiday Season, filled with abundant blessings and joy. And, if I may, I would like to ask that you continue to reach out to more people to join READ/OC as Tutors, and also encourage those who might benefit from our literacy services to please contact us.

Matthew Le
Program Administrator
READ/Orange County

Looking Ahead and Thinking Forward

As we celebrate READ/OC's upcoming 20th Anniversary by looking back to '92, we continue looking forward and planning for the future. In keeping with a celebration of what has been and what is to come, we want to convey our appreciation to all who have and will continue to partner with READ/OC to create a more literate Orange County.



Watch for more news of how you can help us celebrate 20 and beyond!



The monthly report winner for October is:

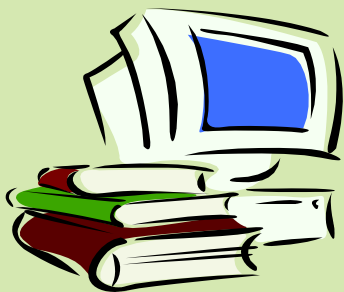
Debby Connick

Congratulations Debby!

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! 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



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

- Jean's learner achieved a goal when she was able to translate information from other workers into English for her boss.
- Judith's learner finished reading his second novel, *The Pilot's Wife*.
- Kay's learner read the first two chapters of his reader.
- Leigh's learner was able to read and understand want ads.
- Niloo's learner passed her GED exams with flying colors.
- Anita's learner called the tutor personally and spoke in English instead of asking a family member to make the call for her.
- Cathleen's learner has sent emails to her daughter's teacher and to some co-workers.
- Sophie's learner completed her resume, communicated with her son's teachers about his educational needs, and started a sewing business.
- Lora's learner has been calling the tutor in English when she needs to reschedule a meeting or ask a question, rather than having her family contact the tutor.
- Pam's learner officially became a US Citizen.

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



"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." - Erma Bombeck

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

WWW.READOC.ORG

Attention Learners and Tutors:

Writer-to-Writer 2011 Entries Due December 14

Did you ever read a book, feel the message is "so ME!" or want to talk to the author about your connection to their story?

Write a letter to the author and enter it in the annual Writing Challenge for adult learners, sponsored by Southern California Library Network!



Learners simply select a book you have recently read or are currently reading. After reading it, write a letter to the author sharing your feelings and thoughts about the book and how it relates to *your* story.

Tutors! Encourage your learners by helping them select a book that connects with a current interest of theirs. Depending on your learner's skill and confidence levels, you can use a language experience approach (LEA) to help get them thinking about what they might want to include in their letter. (*Remember, it is their letter...their words.*)

Learners! *Try It! You'll Like It! Nothing to lose so you begin automatically a winner!*

Contact READ/OC **TODAY** for an information packet and entry form.

Hurry! The deadline is fast approaching!



Share the Gift of Literacy at Barnes and Noble!

Join us for our Gift-wrapping Fundraiser



Join the Friends of READ/OC once again for the annual fun-gift wrap fundraiser at Barnes and Noble!

When? Friday, December 23, 9am-11pm *AND* Saturday, December 24, 9am – 6pm

Where? South Coast Plaza/Metro Pointe

901 B South Coast Drive, Suite 150, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

What? Share "Happy Tidings of Literacy in Orange County" while wrapping gifts for Barnes & Noble holiday shoppers!

How? Call or email READ/OC to sign up to help on either day!

Phone: 714.566.3070 - Email: readoc@occr.ocgov.com

Why? *It's the most fun fundraiser of the season – helping frazzled last-minute holiday shoppers by wrapping their purchases and sharing the joys of reading and how to help other Orange County adults and families with the gift of literacy!*



Join our Social Network!

Have you been looking for a way to get involved in your community and meet others who share your passion for volunteering?

Throughout the year, FROC has volunteer opportunities to do everything from helping us at our gift-wrapping fundraiser, to working at the Annual Family Picnic and Recognition Celebration for our Tutors and Learners. While at these activities, we socialize, we get to know others who are volunteering in their community, we are a social network!

What does your volunteer opportunity look like? Here are a few ways you can be involved with Friends of READ/OC:

- Be a FRIEND, volunteer your time at one of our activities.
- Be a FRIEND, get involved with our Board or join one of our committees.
- Be a FRIEND, support READ/OC with a tax deductible gift. You can give online by clicking this link [DONATE](#)
- Be a FRIEND, let us know if your company has a community support program that we can participate in.
- Be a FRIEND, click on my name and drop me an email ([Karen Ruhl](#)) so that I can add you to our FRIENDS email list. We will keep you informed of upcoming activities.
- Be a FRIEND, share this newsletter with your family, friends and co-workers.

Thank you FRIEND for taking the time to read this article and letting us share this time with you.

Become a FRIEND of READ/OC today!

www.friendsroc.org

OUTREACH NEWS

INGRAM MICRO Partner Smart™ Thank you **Ingram Micro** for inviting us back for your Holiday Boutique on November 17th. We are always well received at Ingram Micro and have an opportunity to hand out our literature and talk to employees about volunteering. Four employees signed up to learn more about becoming a tutor.

A big thank you to **Barbara George** our **Pampered Chef** friend and supporter. We held a fund-raiser that raised over \$300.00!!



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!*



Next time you are online – “LIKE” **READ/OC** and **Friends of READ/OC** on Facebook.

While you are there, check out literacy news and events on the Facebook pages for Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) and our very own Friends of READ/Orange County (FROC).

And then share us with a friend - encourage them to volunteer and help change a life through literacy.



*Those who can, do.
 Those who can do **more**,
 volunteer. -- Unknown*

Library Spotlight:

Tustin Literacy Center

Did you know that there are five different study rooms available for tutoring at the Tustin library?

Well, technically only three of them are set aside for priority use by READ/OC tutors and learners.

Study rooms C & D are designated as READ/OC study rooms. They are located towards the back of the library, off of the teen area. Tutors can get the keys and sign up for recurring 2-hour time slots by talking to the (wonderful and friendly) staff at the information desk. When not in use by READ/OC tutors, C & D are available to other patrons. Study rooms A & B are also available on a first come, first served basis. However READ tutors have no special priority for these rooms.

The READ/OC resource room is a hidden gem, tucked away in a corner of the teen section behind the designated study rooms. It can be accessed by the same key from the information desk. In this room you will find private study space, a white board, computers for tutors and learners to work on together, and a wide range of literacy materials that can be checked out via an honors system. If you have been using just the study rooms, you may be missing out on the great resources in the literacy office!

Special thanks to branch manager Tim Scott and his staff for being so welcoming to our tutors and learners, and to Tustin literacy center ambassador Richard Scott for maintaining our resources there.



Our Literacy Center at the Tustin Library is READ's newest addition. It features 3 computers, a full collection of tutor and learner resources and supplies, a white board, and is free of distraction. To reserve time for tutoring sessions, READ tutors will first check the schedule located in the READ/OC sign-in book and then reserve the room for 1-2 hours on the reservation page within the sign-in book. The sign-in book is located at the library's reference desk and the library staff have a key to the Literacy Center.



"The collected pleasures of everyday life fade away quickly unless there is at the heart of them the gladness of having done something that has made someone happier." -- Unknown

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?"

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



Dear Paige Turner,

Our family came to live in the United States many years ago, but we still do not understand why turkey is such a special food for the American Thanksgiving holiday tradition. Can you tell me why?

Always asking "Why?"

Dear Always Asking,

That is a great question that many people who were born in America do not know the answer to. Check out the answer to your question I found on www.coolquiz.com. It is a fun resource for your family to find answers to such puzzling questions. Share it with your tutor next time the two of you come across a question that you both do not know the answer and then check out other useful online resources!

Paige

Why do we eat turkey for Thanksgiving? Source: www.coolquiz.com

Although juicy and tender turkeys are the main cuisine of today's Thanksgiving celebrations, these birds were NOT the most popular centerpieces on the first Thanksgiving tables.

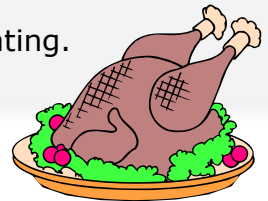
In 1621 when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag (wām'pə-nō'āg) Indians celebrated the first Thanksgiving, they were gobbling up many more foods than just turkey. Since lobster, goose, duck, seal, eel, and cod were plentiful during this time, these foods were most likely the main courses of this first feast. Deer meat and wild fowl are the only two items that historians know for sure were on the menu of this autumn celebration.

So how did the turkey become the main mascot of modern-day Thanksgiving if we don't know for certain that turkeys were at this first feast?

One story tells of how Queen Elizabeth of 16th century England was enjoying roast goose during a harvest festival. When news was delivered to her that the Spanish Armada had sunk on its way to attack her beloved England, the queen was so pleased that she ordered a second goose to celebrate the great news. Thus, the goose became the favorite bird at harvest time in England. When the Pilgrims arrived in America from England, roasted turkey replaced roasted goose as the main cuisine because wild turkeys were more abundant and easier to find than geese.

Turkey Trivia

- The long fleshy skin that hangs over a turkey's beak is called a snood.
- The color of a wild turkey's naked head and neck area can change blue when mating.
- Male turkeys are nicknamed "toms" while females are called "hens."
- When turkeys reach maturity they can have as many as 3,500 feathers!
- Faster than a speeding bullet--Wild turkeys can run up to 55 miles an hour!



Attention Tutors and Learners: For more fun or "good to know" information about Thanksgiving, other American holiday traditions, and other "cool" facts, do an online search. As learning partners, you can discover a lot of new, timely, fun, and sometimes even useful information. It reinforces language and vocabulary skills, critical thinking and computer skills. It also encourages adult learners to experience lifelong learning activities with their family. Remember, a family who can "talk turkey" together is a "lifelong learning" family!

Happy Holidays, Paige Turner

Where Were You in 92 - Computers in Literacy



In 1992, computers were seen as a new learning and working tool for adults. Young children were introduced to fun, animated learning activities on computers in

school. Adults used computers at work, primarily word processing tasks or with equipment driven by computerized systems.

For many tutors and instructors in adult literacy programs, who weren't too sure of the technology for themselves, pencil, paper and books continued as preferred tools in tutoring sessions and basic adult education classes. In learners' goals for work or employment, computer literacy quickly became a priority for everything from completing a job application to answering the phone.

Then in a blink, technology changed our daily tasks: accessing information, operating and maintaining a car, helping children with homework, making popcorn in the microwave, paying for groceries, or getting cash from the bank.

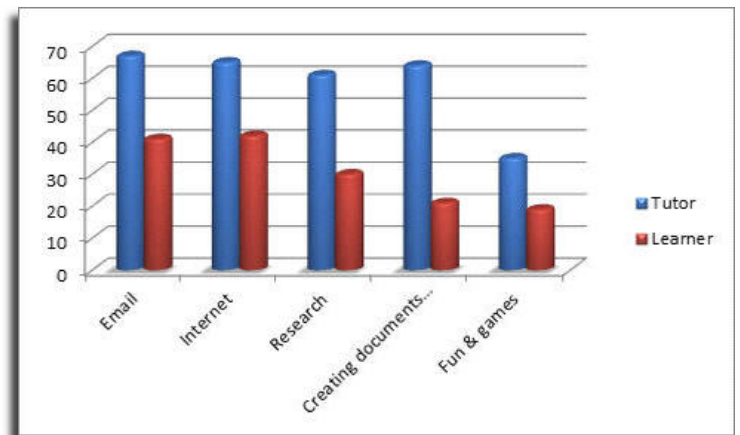
And now, 2011 – computers are linked to every part of our daily life – from talking on the phone, starting the car, paying the bills, doing the laundry to making coffee. And it is no longer limited to turning on the computer or listening to a voicemail message.

Digital literacy is now an essential 21st century skill for all age groups in all areas of our life to be successful with tasks at home, in the car, at work, at the store, at school, and nearly everywhere we go and with everything we do or say. Digital literacy demands strong reading, writing, communication and critical thinking skills.

And regardless of age, education, income, or family background, we continuously need to “learn, unlearn and relearn” to function on a daily basis. We are all “lifelong learners” who can help one another learn new skills, tools and ways to think, communicate and act. Working and learning are now collaborative activities.

READ/Orange County recently conducted a technology survey among our tutors and learners. Responses to the survey showed that while a lot of our program participants (both tutors and learners) have ventured into this world of technology, many want to go further. Many of our learners and some of our tutors have indicated an interest in learning more about using computers and other technology. As we strive to meet this changing need, look for future workshops and training to help in this quest!

How Do You Use the Computer?



In today's technology environment, both our tutors and learners use computers for a variety of everyday tasks, but there is a gap between tutors' and learners' access to resources that technology provides.



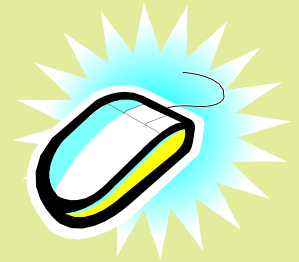
Sounds the Same or Looks the Same...

But Means Something Else!

Homonyms are words that are spelled or pronounced in the same way, but have different meanings. Just hearing the word requires the listener to apply meaning through the other words in the context of what was said or written.

Here are a few "Tech" homonyms to sort out for fun! Match the words in Column B with different meanings in both Column A and Column C.

| <u>Column A</u> | <u>Column B</u> | <u>Column C</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| move up and down | mouse | adhesive |
| a screen to see the data or words | drive | a 4-legged animal with a long tail |
| a tool to operate the computer | paste | rolled up document |
| wire or link | monitor | action made by scissors |
| reads data on disk | scroll | electronic piano |
| data input tool | cut | chain or rope |
| delete data | keyboard | propel or energy |
| insert | cable | observer |



*Call READ/OC at 714-566-3070 for the answers

Tutors Needed

READ/Orange County provides:

- Tutoring in basic literacy skills. Lessons that are confidential, individualized, and highly goal oriented.
- Training for volunteers who want to help others read and write.
- Ongoing support services to learners and tutors.
- Workplace literacy programs for local businesses.



Give the gift of reading, become a volunteer tutor.

Our next Tutor Training orientation and Workshop is:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday, January 17 | Tutor Training Workshop-Orientation, 6-7pm @ Garden Grove Regional Library |
| Thursday, January 19 | Tutor Training Workshop-Orientation, 6-7pm @ El Toro Regional Library |
| Saturday, January 21 | Tutor Training Workshop-Part 1, 9am-4pm @ READ/OC HQ |
| Saturday, January 28 | Tutor Training Workshop-Part 2, 9am-4pm @ READ/OC HQ |
| Saturday, March 3 | Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification, 9am-11am @ READ/OC HQ |



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -- Margaret Mead

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Karen Ruhl



Staff & Volunteer

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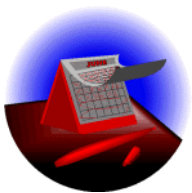
Karen Ruhl

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

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



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

November-December 2011

Thursday, November 24 &

Friday, November 25

Thursday, December 1
Saturday, December 3

Tuesday, December 6
Thursday, December 8
Saturday, December 10

Wednesday, December 14

Thursday, December 15
Friday, December 23

Saturday, December 24

Sunday, December 25 &
Monday, December 26

Planning Ahead – Mark Your Calendars and Tell A Friend or 3 ~ Learners are waiting!

Monday, January 2

Tuesday, January 10
Thursday, January 12

Tuesday, January 17

Thursday, January 19

Saturday, January 21

Saturday, January 28

Saturday, March 3

Thanksgiving Holiday-All Libraries & READ/OC closed Thur. & Fri.

Be Thankful for Reading & Share It With Friends & Family!

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8 pm
Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification, 9am-11am @ READ/OC HQ

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

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

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

Family Reading Time @ Stanton Community Resources Center, 6-8pm

Family Reading Time @ Tustin Library, 6-8 pm

FROC Gift Wrap Fundraiser @ Barnes & Noble, South Coast Plaza/Metro Pointe, 8am-11pm (*Call now to volunteer!*)

FROC Gift Wrap Fundraiser @ Barnes & Noble, South Coast Plaza/Metro Pointe, 8am-6pm

Holiday – OC Public Libraries and READ/OC office closed

Happy New Year Continues! Enjoy the Rose Parade!

Holiday – OC Public Libraries and READ/OC office closed
Learner Orientation, 6-8pm @ Anaheim Haskett Library
Learner Orientation, 6-8pm @ Irvine Katie Wheeler Library

Tutor Training Workshop-Orientation, 6-7pm @ Garden Grove Regional Library

Tutor Training Workshop-Orientation, 6-7pm @ El Toro Regional Library

Tutor Training Workshop-Part 1, 9am-4pm @ READ/OC HQ

Tutor Training Workshop-Part 2, 9am-4pm @ READ/OC HQ

Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification, 9am-11am @ READ/OC HQ



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