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## 2012 Holiday Issue





LIFELONG LEARNING FOCUS ON LITERACY THROUGHOUT ORANGE COUNTY

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

As the Holiday season approaches, we are also reminded of the end of another calendar year. During the last twelve months, the Country, the State, and the County went through many changes, some of which were challenging. READ/OC also had its share of change and challenge. But in the end all is still good and the program continues to see growth and tremendous support.

I believe one of the reasons why we continue to grow and receive abundant support from the community is because everyone understands the importance of literacy. Kofi Annan had one time said "For everyone, everywhere, literacy is...a basic human right....Literacy is the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential." In light of Kofi's reflection, I invite you to remember that you have done a

tremendously significant work during the past year. Whether you are a tutor, a learner, or a volunteer in other areas of the program, you have participated in a noble act of upholding the "basic human right" and providing opportunity for others – or oneself – to realize "his or her full potential."

Presently we are providing services to 467 adult learners with 363 volunteer tutors and many other volunteers in other capacities. We could have not provided the services without you.

Thank you Friends of READ/OC, Volunteers, Learners, Community Partners, and colleagues from other Programs for everything you've done and everything you are. Thank you for being my inspiration.

Happy Holiday to you and your loved ones! Matthew Le , READ/OC Program Administrator

# **Literacy Helps Adults Bloom!**

Congratulations to each and every READ/OC learner and their tutors who have dedicated many hours , efforts and determination toward reaching and achieving personal learning goals!

Special kudos to the 3 learners who entered the annual Writer-to-Writer Challenge along with their tutors Ed Petersen, Amber Carlson and Stephanie Li. Best of Luck to these learning partners for taking this learning adventure! Become a tutor. Encourage someone you know to help grow a learner. Become a Friend of READ/OC. Share this newsletter. Ask us how!



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## FRIENDS OF READ/OC CORNER

Friends of READ/OC recently kicked off a new literacy awareness raising/fundraising campaign with a holiday card showing literacy in action. The giver of the card honors the receiver by providing a minimum donation of \$15 in the recipient's name to support literacy in Orange County through the efforts of Friends of READ/OC. The cards have been a hit and are still available to honor friends and family with the start of the New Year.

Our thanks to those who have already provided donations and sent cards to family and friends. Cards are still available online from Friends of READ/OC and can be mailed out immediately. The cards are a gift of significance as we all know the amazing gift that literacy is to all our learners, and tutors and supporters.

Friends of READ/OC also thank the many volunteers who gave (and will give) their time and holiday smiles while offering giftwrap services at the Barnes & Noble at South Coast Plaza's Metro Pointe on December 1, 2, 8 and 24. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and provides much needed awareness for READ/OC and Friends of READ/OC.

# A Winter Family "Learning" Vacation – For Learners, Tutors, Families, Library staff... and anyone else you know!

**At Home or Away Visiting - Read together:** Look for some time to read together and talk about the books you read. If you have extra time, read a longer chapter book or children's novel out loud to your child. You will enjoy being together and discovering a good story.

**Tell stories:** Use some of your holiday time together to tell stories from your childhood. Ask relatives and friends to share their own stories too. Storytelling helps children become better readers. Family stories are also an important part of your child's heritage. You can even write them down to share in the future.

**At the Library:** Check your library's holiday hours and visit the library. Encourage your child to browse the children's section — it's the perfect opportunity to see what's new and on the shelves.

**Learn about new traditions/holidays:** Look for children's books or Internet articles about holidays you celebrate, special traditions, or other winter celebrations. Your child may have friends at school who celebrate different holidays. You can also find information about holiday traditions around the world - Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Three Kings Day, or the Winter Solstice.

**Give the Gift of Reading...a book for the holidays.** It doesn't have be new — enjoy one of your favorites or look for a special old book from a used bookstore! If relatives are looking for gift ideas for your child, ask them to give a book this year. Look for other reading and writing gifts, such as graphic novels/comic books, magazines, or special note cards for writing letters. This is a great time to find something connected to personal interests, like sports, nature, or art.

#### **Holiday travel**

If you are traveling during your vacation, look for maps and tourist books about your destination. These are a great ways to prepare for the trip — and pass the time travelling in the car or on the plane. Listen to audiobooks or "pack" e-books for the journey: You can check out both from the library. Children can help choose a couple of books for the family to enjoy on the go. Write letters and thank-you notes: Help children write letters and thank-you notes to family and friends for holiday greetings and gifts...then do some of your own.

Adapted from: "Winter Vacation: 10 Reading Ideas for Parents," by www.readingrockets.org

## Dear Paige Turner

Dear Paige Turner,

My learner and I both have many commitments during the holiday season and into the start of the year. Is it ok to take some off and resume in a few weeks? And if we do, how will this impact the learning progress we have made so far?

Holiday Focused Tutor

Dear Holiday Focused,

Of course it is appropriate to consider a brief break in your tutoring routine. Holidays are certainly busy enough! And this is a time to celebrate the learning efforts you have already begun and a time to reflect on new learning adventures and goals for the coming year! Then the New Year represents exciting new learning opportunities and successes that await you and your learner—so start off with your collective Reading Resolutions to the new year...reflecting on what has been accomplished so far and the learning journey ahead. (aka—review your goals!)

Just remember, if you and your learner are taking an extended break, please let READ/OC know so we don't think we lost you!

Happiest of Reading Resolutions, Paige.

# READ/OC Welcomes A New Team Member" — The youngest and Tiniest Team Member

Toby William Braun entered the world on November 16 — healthy, happy and ready for a lifetime of learning ... especially from his big sisters and his mom and dad. Congratulations to Rebecca and the entire Braun Family!



\*\*READING Warms The Hearts of Many and Makes Way for the Blooms of the Gift of Reading and Lifelong Learning!

Volunteer today to become a tutor or support READ/OC efforts by joining Friends of READ/Orange County.

## **January-February 2013**

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 Thu., Jan. 3 Tue., Jan. 8 Thu., Jan. 10 Sat., Jan. 12 Wed., Jan. 16 Sat. Jan. 19 | New Year Holiday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-8pm Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library, 7-8pm Family Reading Time @ University Park Library, 10am-12pm Family Reading Time @ Stanton Community Services Ctr., 6-8pm Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm |
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| Mon., Jan. 21  | Martin Luther King Holiday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed  |
| Weds., Jan. 23   | Tutor Training Orientation @ READ/OC office 1-2 pm or 6-7pm   |
| Sat., Jan 26   | Tutor Training Workshop Session 1 @ READ/OC office, 9am-4pm   |
| Sat, Feb 2   | Tutor Training Workshop Session 2 @ READ/OC office, 9am-4pm   |
| Tue., Feb. 5   | Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-8pm  |
| Thu., Feb. 7   | Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm  |
| Sat., Feb. 9   | Family Reading Time @ University Park Library, 10am-12  |
| Tue., Feb. 12  | Lincoln's Birthday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed  |
| Wed., Feb. 14  | Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library, 7-8pm   |
|  | Happy Valentine's Day—Read to Your Sweetheart!  |
| Sat., Feb. 16  | Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm  |
| Mon., Feb. 18  | Washington's Birthday—Libraries & READ/OC office closed   |
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## **Volunteers Needed - Next Tutor Training Workshop**

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 Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 1-2 pm or 6-7pm. Then the Tutor Training Workshop will be Saturdays, January 26 and February 2 from 9am-4pm, and the follow-up workshop on Saturday, March 2 from 9-11am.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the READ/OC Office with filing, phone calls, and much more! Call us for more information about how you can help.

Share this with a Friend, Neighbor, or Colleague!

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







