



## A Message From Dodi

*From the Director*

To all of you connected in some way to Palmetto Literacy Council!

Happy Thanksgiving! We hope that you are able to celebrate all of the wonderful "gifts" that you have received throughout the year and in your life. Gifts can come in many different forms. This is a holiday that we all can share and celebrate together, regardless of where we come from.

Some of you may not "celebrate" with a big dinner, some of you may celebrate by just thinking quietly about how many gifts and/or blessings you have received. I'm grateful every day for the wonderful gifts of learning and of our volunteers, students, and donors.

Our volunteers include those wonderful Tutors who meet with their students for two hours each week. The Tutors mentor, instruct, and enjoy the beauty of learning they get to be a part of and watch as the learning "clicks" in. The volunteers are also the ones who help the organization run, from keeping track of students, Tutors, pairings, assessments, binders, learning materials, and so on to those who dedicate themselves to writing the grants, keeping the office running, making sure the financial accounts are accurate, refilling the binders, making new binders, setting up and participating in community events, and running and volunteering at Fundraising events to keep us going! We are grateful for our Volunteer Liaisons at each of the libraries who check in with our students (parents), Tutors, and librarians as well as administer formative assessments for reading and math. Let's also recognize those volunteers who fix things, make things, and share their expertise all while working in the background, unseen. If I've given more words for any of the roles our volunteers play or have not mentioned a role, I have not forgotten the wonderful contributions you have made to this organization. We are so lucky to have so many pull together as a team. Each one doing their part to make Palmetto Literacy Council strong. Each volunteer impacts the learning of each of our students and changes lives in a way we will not be able to see immediately. Yet, you have all done the work and pulled together to help our community.

I'm grateful for the beautiful, courageous students who come to meet with their Tutor to learn! We know that sometimes it is tough to admit you need help and then decide to make it happen. You have done that students and parents! Parents, you are looking out for your children to make sure they get the best shot at success by getting your child tutored. Adult students are doing it all and making it happen to change their trajectory in a positive way. It takes time, energy, and persistence to make sure students are on time for their tutoring sessions. Change only happens when you make the effort and you are doing that!

We are grateful for the foundations, businesses, and individuals who provide funding for us to be able to provide the materials we need to help our students learn. It is wonderful that you support us to help us build a stronger community through literacy. We cannot express how overwhelmingly thankful we are to have you on our side, supporting, and encouraging us through all of the growth, change, and challenges we all face to help our community learn. We are growing at a rapid pace and you are there to help us grow into a nonprofit organization that is sustainable, strong, and effective.

November is almost the end of the year. It is a great time for us to reflect on our blessings and gifts. We hope each of you has the opportunity to think about and celebrate those blessings and gifts as we go forward with a new chance at a better life and learning.

To all of you- thank you.  
With my most sincere gratitude.  
Stay safe and healthy.

*Dodi*

*"One glance at a book and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for 1,000 years. To read is to voyage through time."*

- Carl Sagan

**Adrian Andrade-Marin** (Student)  
and **Stephanie Hay** (Tutor).



Adrian completed the second section in his binder. Congratulations Adrian!



Stephanie Hay (our Tutor) sent this picture of **Adrian Andrade-Marin**, her student, reading to a therapy dog at the Chapin Library.

## Students With Dyslexia

Research shows the strongest impact on skill growth of children at risk for dyslexia is an explicit instructional approach. Other important characteristics include:

- A structured, sequential, and cumulative order of presentation
- Multisensory stimulation (visual, auditory, and tactile modalities)
- Intensive review and practice

*"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book."*

- Frank Serafini

## Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global movement dedicated to charitable giving. On the first Tuesday after American Thanksgiving, this year Nov. 28, people are encouraged to donate to nonprofits and charities all over the world. If you search online, you'll see the hashtag #GivingTuesday across social media platforms.

the United Nations Foundation. Director Henry Timms noticed the surge in spending (and overspending!) in holidays after Thanksgiving—Black Friday, Cyber Monday and the recent Small Business Saturday. To capture the spirit of holiday generosity, he helped launch Giving Tuesday as a dedicated day for charitable giving.

Thirty percent of all annual giving occurs each year in December, with 10 percent taking place in the last three days of the month.

The Palmetto Literacy Council is strengthened by the generosity of its donors and owes all of them a huge "thank you." But Giving Tuesday also includes giving of your time, and growing the spirit of volunteerism – and that is what PLC is built upon.

Our volunteers are engaged in giving every day of the year, as are parents with their caring and concern – and the knowledge that reading and math are not only important in school but throughout a lifetime.



**Nevaeh Fisher** completed her Binder!! Her Tutor is Polly Putorti. YAY!



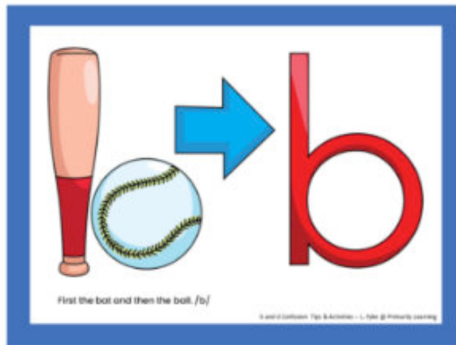
**Sawyer Campbell** completed "Smart Steps Level 1, Section 1." His tutor is Heather Sussman Johnson.



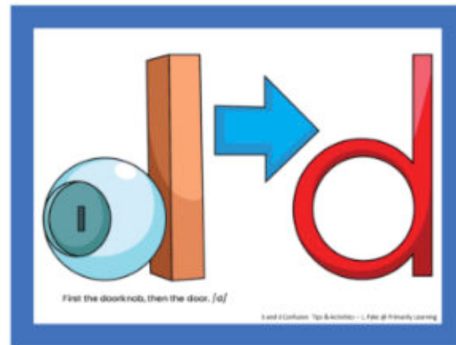
## Tutoring Tips

Here are a few tips for tutors to better help their students. We'll be putting more tips in future newsletters.

### 1. Confusion of B and D lower case letters



When you play baseball...  
First, you get the bat,  
and then you hit the ball!



When you enter a room with a closed-door...  
First, you use the doorknob,  
then you open the door.

Aim for correct letter/number formation. Using analogies like: "First a bat, and then a ball" for b, or "First the doorknob, then the door" for d ... can be helpful. Trace the letters. Say the sound!

The teacher says the letter and writes it in the air. (If you face the student, remember to print the letter backward so that the students follow the correct formation.) The teacher might say /p/, /p/, /p/ as she writes a 'p' in the air.

She might say, "Let's make a /b/. Start at the top. /b/ ... ." It is important to repeat the letter sound as the letter is formed to bond the letter sound and the letter formation.

Extensions: Add to this multi-sensory approach. Ask the children to trace the letter on the back of a partner or the palm of their hand. Use a wet paintbrush and "paint" the disappearing letter on the driveway or chalkboard. Remember to repeat the letter sound to connect it to the letter formation.

- Print the letter b on a piece of paper. Optional: Cut it out.
- Play with the letters. Talk about how you can flip and turn the letter b ... and it becomes a new letter!
- Print two copies of each letter in black and white... match the letters. Hold up a letter and ask the kids to say the sound.
- Try using a tactile letter. Create letters like p, d, b, q, r, n, h using sandpaper, corrugated paper, fur, feathers, glitter, etc. Use a different surface for each letter. Follow explicit printing instructions and trace the letter. Say the letter name as you feel it!
- When we say /b/, our lips come together in a straight line. Point out that the straight line comes first when you write the letter *b*.
  - When we say /d/, our lips are open. Coincidentally, the circle comes first when you write the letter *d*.

- When we say /p/, it's a lip popper! Your mouth forms a straight line and then you pop it open. Point out that the straight line begins a /p/.
- When we say /qu/, it's a digraph! Our lips are open to begin the sound. The printed sound /qu/ begins with the creation of a circle.

## 2. Reading

Remind your students to read 20 minutes every night

## 3. At the Library

To help your students find a library book to read, have your students pick a book and open it to any page. Ask them to put one finger up for each word they don't know.

0-1 fingers: Too easy

1-2 fingers: Perfect choice

4 fingers: Give it a try. Buddy read

5 fingers: Too hard for now. (Try buddy reading with your student.)

*"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light."*

- Vera Nazarian

## The Editor's Photo Tips for Tutors

Everyone loves the photos of a tutor with a student who has reached a new goal. Here are some ideas for good photos.

- Position yourself and your "tutee" so that your head and theirs are at about the same level. If there is a big difference in height, sit in a chair or kneel down while they stand next to you. Don't just bend forward - that makes you look weird. You can read "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," you don't have to act it out.
- "Selfies" are fine but if you hold the camera too low, we'll be looking up your noses.
- Think about the background. A wall of books is great. A comfy reading nook is great. The Xerox machine next to the door to the men's room - not so great.
- You don't need to be flat up against the background. It's background, not a support to hold you up.
- The lighting in most libraries is nice and even. Modern cell phones can do a great job with almost any light. That said, be sure you're not standing directly under a ceiling light; it will cast shadows on your faces.
- A good lighting situation would be if the person taking the photo was standing with their back to a window while you and your tutee were facing the window. Stay out of the direct beam of sunlight; the light will be too harsh.
- Don't hesitate to take more than one shot. I don't need all of them. Send me the one with all four eyes open and two half-decent facial expressions.

### Our Mission:

*The Palmetto Literacy Council's mission is to improve the literacy of youth and adults in our community by tutoring literacy skills for those who struggle with basic Reading, Writing and/or Math.*

**Donate Now!**

If you've read this far, you're obviously interested in what we do. Your donation helps pay for student binders, office space, copy machines, paper, and much more. Please donate what you can today!

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