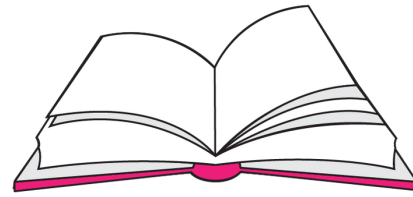


PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL



A Message From Dodi

From the Director

Hello all! What a beautiful autumn we are experiencing! Lots of news here at Palmetto Literacy Council!

We held our Second Annual Best Book Bazaar, with lots of new students, a need for volunteers, community event participation, and lots more.

Second Annual Best Book Bazaar

What an amazing event! The volunteers who put this event together need a standing ovation! Thousands of books on display, local (and not so local) authors selling their books, fantastic keynote speaker, Dr. Preston McKeever-Floyd, our first Writing Contest-Pen Warriors, raffles, 50/50 drawings, and the Blood Connection blood drive on Saturday. Whew!

We sold a wide variety of books on Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30, 2023. We had a fun visit from our favorite icon, Chauncey, the Coastal Carolina University mascot, on Friday night. There were lots of raffle prizes, games, 50/50 drawings, and laughter throughout the event.

Authors' Tables

We had 17 Local (and not-so-local) Authors set up tables with their books. They were autographing those books as well. What a collection of interesting books! Wow! We enjoyed being able to talk to these professionals.

KeyNote

Dr. Preston McKeever-Floyd gave a keynote speech about the "Light Warrior" in all of us. He explained how we need to reach into our hearts and souls to find the kind of light we have inside all of us and then make sure we fight to keep that light alive. It was a great connection for the Pen Warrior, Writing Contest winners, and for those of us who need a gentle reminder.

Pen Warriors

Our Pen Warrior contestants' books were amazing. The books were judged by the Coastal Carolina University, English Department, Dr. Emma Howes, and Dr. Christian Smith who facilitated the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. We appreciate the work they did developing the rubrics and judging the entries.

We had one winner in Grades 6-8: Rebecca Andrada-Marin. Rebecca wrote her book in Spanish and in English. Her story included beautiful illustrations and pictures. Her brother Adrian helped her by holding props for her while she read.

In Grades 3-5, we want to thank St. Michael's Catholic School for participating and Ms. Bradley for submitting so many books! The books were great and from what we hear, it was

difficult to decide the winners. So instead of the top three winners, we had four winners. They all read their books to an audience and did a beautiful job of presenting their books. Our First-Place winner was Alexa Duff, Second-Place was Blake Vandal, and we had two Third-Place winners. The Third-Place winner for Illustrations was Hudson Smith and the Third-Place winner for Creativity was Annalee Baynes.

We are so proud of these students! We hope all of the contestants continue to write!

The Blood Connection

The Blood Connection hosted a blood drive in their mobile unit, just outside of our venue and we love having them support us.

Horry County Schools Adult Education Center – Etta Carter

We owe a great big thank you for Etta Carter and the Horry County Adult Education Center, 3301 Oak St N, Myrtle Beach for hosting our event two years in a row and giving us so much support! Ms. Carter's students also helped us after the event! Rock on HCS Adult Education Center!

PLC News

Thank you to all of our volunteers! It takes a village and we are forever grateful for everything you do from tutoring our students to putting on fundraising events to showing up for community events! I hear about your work daily and it is always positive! You are amazing.

We also want to thank our funders. Along with our major funding source, *The Chapin Foundation*, we want to also thank the *Waccamaw Community Foundation* and the *Horry County United Way Foundation* for their support.

We have had several organizations support us and we would like to thank them as well. We want to thank the neighborhood of Blackmoor, the Newcomers Club of the Grand Strand, 100 Women Who Care, United Bank-Garden City, Bank of America, the Rotary Club of Myrtle Beach, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Texas Roadhouse, and the donors who donate privately. We continue to provide our services to help children and adults learn to read, write, and do math with your support.

After four years and surviving through COVID, we are here to build our community through literacy! Thank you.

Stay safe and healthy!

Dodi

Ryan Frazier
shows his Math
Achievement Award.
His tutor is Greg Routzahn





Jose Del Carmen completed a section in his binder. Bonnie Kelley is his tutor.

Best Book Bazaar 2023 – 2nd Annual

Photos from the 2nd Annual Best Book Bazaar



If you would like to see many more pictures of the Book Bazaar event, [CLICK HERE](#).

Pen Warrior authors reading their books to the audience.



Some of the Pen Warriors



Rebecca Marin Baca



Annalee Baynes



Alexa Duff

These authors are ready for the best-seller list!

Several visiting authors were here to sell and autograph their books.





And of course, this event couldn't happen without a lot of volunteers!



Launch Review

Parents, grandparents, and their students are invited to become "Launch readers" by reading and reviewing short, 10-minute children's books and parent guides. MJChanacapublishing publishes the books.

The books educate and entertain while teaching moral and ethical values.

For more information visit the Internet at: <https://www.mjchanacapublishing.com/>. You can join the read/review team by subscribing to the mailing list on the homepage.



Shabrique Spratt
got her first certificate.
Mona Prufer is her tutor.

Brigham Macheski
completed a section of his binder..
His tutor is Bonnie Kelley.



Board of Directors News

We have had a change of leadership on the Board of Directors. Dr. Preston McKeever-Floyd is the new Chair of the Board of Directors. Dr. Polly Putorti is now the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. Three new members were nominated and elected to be on the Board of Directors. Please welcome Tonya Robinson, Sue Walters (Tutor), and Veronica DeCicco (Screening Coordinator and Volunteer Liaison at Chapin Library).

Veronica DeCicco

Veronica DeCicco joins Palmetto Literacy Council after serving as principal at Merrimac Elementary School for the last 12 years, Merrimac, New York. Her school has been a Franklin Covey Leader in Me school for 11 years and a Lighthouse School since 2014. She has been in the education field for the past 33 years in many different capacities: taught first, second, third and fifth grade, a reading specialist, Reading Recovery teacher, a middle school principal, a special education director at the district level and a districtwide staff developer in the areas of literacy and mathematics instruction. Currently, she is a consultant/coach for Franklin Covey in the education field.



Veronica is married to her husband Gil and has two children, Christopher, and Alexandra. She has relocated from Long Island, New York to South Carolina. She enjoys reading and traveling

She enjoys volunteering for Palmetto Literacy Council as the Screening Coordinator, former Tutor, and Chapin Library Liaison. She also screens new entrants for placement in the program in literacy and mathematics..

Tonya Robinson

Tonya Robinson is a Realtor (Century21, Broadhurst), Professional Model (Marilyn's Agency) and Personal Stylist in Myrtle Beach. Known for her flair and savvy approach to fashion. She is the owner of Diva Unlimited which provides personal styling and concierge services. Tonya has modeled for L. Mae Boutique, The Foxy Lady Boutique, Tara Grinna Swimwear, Little White Dress, Two Oaks Bridal, Reeds Jeweler, and Hamricks.



Using fashion and style as a form of empowerment, Tonya has been successful in creating her platform. She is passionate about giving back to her community. Tonya is a

member of Junior League of The Grand Strand where she is the DEIB Chair. She was recently honored as 2023 Changemakers in the Grand Strand by Multiplying Good, a member of The Waccamaw Leadership Forum, Leadership Coastal Carolina of Realtors and board member of Care Team Plus.

Tonya has demonstrated through her work how the transformative power of fashion can inspire, uplift, project confidence and self-love.

Susan Walters

Susan "Sue" Walters, with her husband and two sons, relocated to Myrtle Beach from Long Island, New York in 2012. Prior to her move, Sue was employed for over forty years in various administrative/secretarial positions.

Susan has always been involved in school and community service. For three years, she was President of the Friends of the Arts Booster Club in her sons' school district in Long Island, New York.

Since moving to the Grand Strand, Susan served for two years as Membership Chairperson for the Carolina Forest High School Sports Booster, and, for the past two years, has tutored with the Palmetto Literacy Council.



Volunteer Liaisons

Tracye Watson is our new Socastee Volunteer Liaison. She jumped in with both feet. Our numbers are growing in that library, so we would like to find yet another Volunteer Liaison to do the job as Co-Volunteer Liaisons.

Tracye recently retired to the Myrtle Beach area from Arizona. She taught elementary school for 23 years in the Chandler Unified School District. Tracye holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Master's in Elementary Education. She enjoys spending time at the beach, hiking, and traveling.



Volunteers and Students Information

We're back in the double digits for students on the Waitlist. If you know anyone who is willing to tutor, please contact Dodi! It is only 1 hour, twice each week at your local library. We have a particular need in Conway and students in Green Sea/Loris are also needing tutors.

Bank of America Leadership Program Open to High School Juniors & Seniors

High school juniors and seniors are invited to apply for the Student Leadership Program, dedicated to youth employment and economic mobility, and hosted by Bank of America.

This is the program's 20th year, which helps community-minded students succeed in the workforce through leadership training and work experience.

Each year, more than 300 youth from nearly 100 communities are accepted into the Student Leaders Program where they receive first-hand experience in serving their communities through a paid eight-week summer internship. Internships are with non-profit organizations within the community like the Boys and Girls Club, local food banks Habitat for Humanity, and more.

Youth will also see how non-profits, governments, and businesses meet local needs by participating in the National Student Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C.



By connecting with each other, youth will learn about the experiences of others, diversity of thought, and how collaboration creates a more just world.

The application period is open through Jan. 17, 2024. To learn more or apply, visit www.bankofamerica.com/studentleaders.

Newsletter Editor - Bill Woodward
Palmetto Literacy Council
1229 38th Ave N #130
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
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