



A Message From The Director

Hello everyone!

It is Spring! What a beautiful season here! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful flowers blooming.

Students are out of school in Horry County Schools the first week of April. Check with parents or your adult students for any changes in Tutoring schedules.

The students are restless this time of year, it may be a good time to break from the regular schedule of tutoring and do something different like reading a book, playing a board game, or making a craft. This is also a good time to start checking to see if your student will be continuing in the summer. Will there be a change in the schedule?

We have our 4th Annual Golf Scramble coming up on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at the Burning Ridge Golf Course. The committee is looking for donations for raffle prizes, help with getting hole sponsors, and getting golfers. They will be sending their wish lists. Please feel free to contact Susan Walters at sue@palmettoliteracy.org.

The Golf Committee meets on Tuesday, April 9, at 9 AM at our office. I'm bringing in donuts/bagels and putting on the coffee pot! I'm sure we are going to have a crowded house to finalize the details of this major event! I can't wait to see everyone! If you check the website, it is on our calendar! We need bright ideas and creative thinking! I know we have plenty of that in this organization!

CCU Communal Pen - a community writing workshop.

The CCU Antheneum and the SC Arts Commission have teamed up to offer our community a workshop to tell each member's story. You don't have to be a writer, there are lots of ways to tell your story. This workshop will be held at the Chapin Memorial Library, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 9 AM to 11 AM. Come join this inspiring workshop! Bring your friends...no admission fee, of course, we always accept donations.

Free WonderWorks ticket in April

WonderWorks Myrtle Beach and the Horry County Memorial Library System have a great reward for readers! Register for an Horry Co. library card and get free a WonderWorks ticket in April. <https://wpde.com/news/local/register-horry-county-library-card-get-free-wonderworks-ticket-april-memorial-myrtle-beach-branch-first-time-event-redeem-voucher-exhibit-dr-seuss-national-week-book-drive-donation>

TUTORS:

Photo Tips

Thank you for the photos you send us of your students and their successes! We want those photos and we want to show off you, your students, and the certificates. Bill Woodward has put together some Photo Tips which you can find on our website:

<https://palmettoliteracy.org/2024/03/11/photo-tips/>

More Resources

Kim and Bill have been working to make our website more available to our community and you! We now have feature articles, teaching tips, and all kinds of news! Please check it out, you may be surprised at what you find. More articles and tips are being added all the time. The information is great to share with parents and friends. <https://www.palmettoliteracy.org>.

Enjoy your holiday!
Stay safe and healthy!

Dodi

“Building a stronger community through literacy.”

Palina Ferrell Completed a Binder!



This is **Palina Ferrell**
and she completed a binder!
Her Tutor is Barb Shipley.
Well done!

Donations

We are a nonprofit 501c3 and we operate from the grants and donations we receive from our community. Due to our growth, we need funding to purchase computers, and desks, and to move to a larger office space. If you can, we would appreciate any help you could give us to continue to provide Horry County with high-quality, free tutoring. We are grateful for any donations. You can donate on the PLC website by [clicking here](#), or by clicking on the **Walmart Spark Good** website below.



We are registered for the Walmart SparkGood donation hub. Donors can purchase gift cards or other items we have listed to donate to our organization. This is the donation link on the Walmart website:

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/RR/36fa7082-9cde-489a-a5e8-4d31844ea9a1>



From an actual fortune cookie in tutor Marie Woodward's Chinese takeout...

**50 Years Later, Life Lesson Learned:
Every Moment Makes A Difference**



By **Kim Reischling**

Each year, the United States celebrates National Volunteer Week to recognize the contributions of our volunteers. This year the celebration takes place April 21-27. The theme is “Something for Everyone.”

Later in life, I’ve become a huge advocate of volunteerism. Before becoming a volunteer with the Palmetto Literacy Council in June of 2023, my last experience was as a 16-year-old “candy striper” at a retirement home. I loved volunteering there, and 50 years later (I’m dating myself!) I still remember some of the residents.

There was Mr. Leach who taught me how to play Chinese checkers, and that gentleman, in his late 80s, always won! There was Mrs. Schneider, elegant, with her hair in an impeccable bun, using a beautifully decorated cane. She needed to hold my arm for support as she walked, and I was always happy to oblige. Mrs. Schneider loved to crochet, and I asked her if she could teach me. I wasn’t very good at it, but she was unfailingly pleasant and patient.

Two of my most vivid memories will always linger. One day, I took a few minutes to play the piano while the residents dined. When I stopped playing, a resident opened the room divider, and asked me to continue because “it was so nice to listen to music while eating.” That sweet woman cured me of my shyness at being seen using the piano by the residents, and I continued playing until lunch was finished when I got a huge round of applause. I will never forget how those people made me feel. I remember my eyes tearing with gratitude that I was able to give them a small gift of music and they accepted it joyfully. I played often for them after that.

And then, there was the time that I was responsible for escorting Mr. Leach during a fair held near the port. My heart fluttered when I heard several good-natured sailors saying, “Look! There’s a candy striper. Come save us. We’re drowning!” Hey, what self-respecting 16-year-old with a cute uniform could resist that kind of flattery? What I remember most, though, is Mr. Leach standing next to me chuckling. He got such a kick out of it! Bless his heart!



What happened to that 16-year-old who was mature enough to understand the residents of the retirement home just wanted a little of my time and attention? They wanted to answer the questions I had about their lives and experiences. They just wanted someone to care.

I guess life got in the way. After college, I got a job that was demanding, stressful, and all-consuming. I raised children. I just never seemed to have time for myself much less anyone outside of my family. What a shame. In the end, I lost out on so many moments that might have made an impact on someone.

It took the loss of my husband, retirement, and moving to Myrtle Beach for me to understand that it wasn’t too late for me to try to make a difference in someone’s life and that there were still rich and rewarding volunteer opportunities out there for me.

Quite by accident, I attended a volunteer fair at Surfside Library where I saw a booth belonging to the Palmetto Literacy Council. For some reason, I gravitated to their booth, and then and there I signed up to tutor a child in reading. Later, I did some research on PLC and decided this was where I needed to be.

It’s no exaggeration when I say that my life has changed. PLC is driven by volunteers – many who tutor children and adults, and others who work behind the scenes. I’ve learned so much

from them. I've seen first-hand their dedication and commitment to our students.

Some of them have volunteered for many years, and I marvel at their perseverance. All they want is to change the life of a child, to enable that child to succeed – because we all know that reading and writing are the building blocks for a child's future. What a gift to impact – in small ways or large – that future. As adult volunteers, what we do matters, it really does. Yes, I'd say I've found my people, and now I have nothing but time.

No more 50-hour workweek. No more excuses.

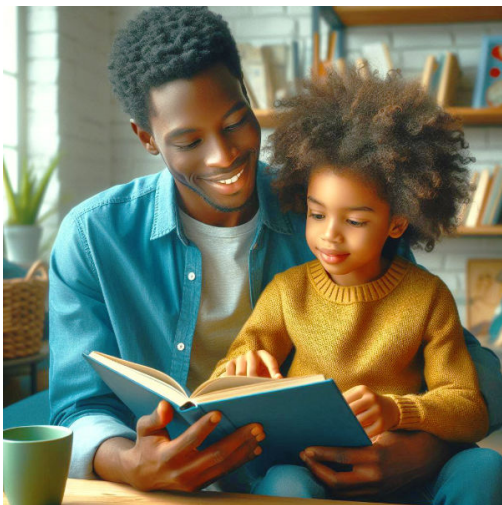
The Palmetto Literacy Council needs more volunteers. Tutoring in reading or math only takes a two-hour weekly commitment. You'll have mentors and plenty of support. You'll meet like-minded people. You won't regret it. Maybe not now, but later, a child will thank you. And maybe, just like me, you'll learn that you, too, have found your home.

Julia Smith is On The Move!

Julia Smith completed "Passages to Comprehension - Level 3." Her Tutor is Marie Woodward. Good job, Julia!



Raising Readers: What Parents Can Do



Learning to read takes practice. Loving to read takes enthusiasm. Read with your child often and create a sense of enjoyment, wonder, and a passion for reading.

- **Read together every day.** You can read the morning news at breakfast, share a story after supper, or cuddle up for a book at bedtime. A daily reading routine is something everyone can look forward to.
- **Talk and build vocabulary.** Interesting conversations build vocabulary, language skills, and knowledge about the world. Talk is a child's best source of exposure to new words and ideas.
- **Model reading.** Kids want to do what the grownups do. Make sure your kids get to see you reading and hear you talk about it.
- **Point out print.** Read and talk about the words you see in the world around you. There's lots to read—signs, recipes, cereal boxes, instruction manuals, bus schedules,

news, maps, and menus.

- **Visit the library.** Take advantage of all the books, materials, story times, programs, and resources your local library has to offer.
- **Create a reading-rich home.** Find books at the bookstore or yard sales. Provide a special shelf or basket for kids to keep their own books and one for library books. Make sure there are quiet, comfortable places to read.
- **Encourage your child's reading.** Praise the efforts of a soon-to-be or beginning reader. Make sure the schedules of older readers include time for reading for pleasure.
- **Keep books handy.** Stash books in your bag to read aloud when you travel or have to wait at restaurants or for appointments. Or keep eBooks on your phone.
- **Start reading traditions.** Beyond bedtime stories, consider a special birthday book, holiday favorites, or a regular family read-aloud night.
- **Let kids choose books.** Offer titles that explore your child's interests, expand horizons and offer exposure to different kinds of writing. Show them there are books where they can see themselves and books where they can see the worlds of others.
- **Make everyone comfortable.** Find a spot to read together where you are both comfortable. Sometimes kids have to move around to be comfortable.
- **Be an active reader.** Use expressive voices for characters, make sound effects, and point things out in the text and illustrations when you read aloud.
- **Discuss what you read.** Give your child enough time to absorb the story and look at the pictures as you read. Think aloud about what you are reading and looking at and encourage your child to do the same.
- **Ask questions when you read.** Ask your child to guess what comes next. Ask open-ended questions that help them relate to characters or events in the book. Let your child get involved and ask questions too—interruptions are okay!
- **Encourage re-reading.** Repetition helps kids learn. Re-reading favorite books and poems helps kids make meaningful connections between themselves and books.
- **Connect reading and writing.** Write your own reading material, like a story about your life, a story featuring your kids, or a story kids make up.
- **Make media matter.** Connect kids with appropriate technology—videos, apps, or games that help them learn new words and interesting things about the world.
- **Get help.** If you have concerns about your child's language development, hearing, or vision, see your child's pediatrician as soon as possible.
- **Make reading an experience.** Link life experiences with books, like a trip to the zoo and books about animals, or planting a garden and reading *The Ugly Vegetables* by Grace Lin.
- **Have fun.** Your idea of fun may differ from your child's, so appreciate your child's special joy in learning new things. Try different approaches, such as having them read to you or acting out a favorite story. Even something as simple as storytime outside can make reading together livelier and more memorable for you and your child.

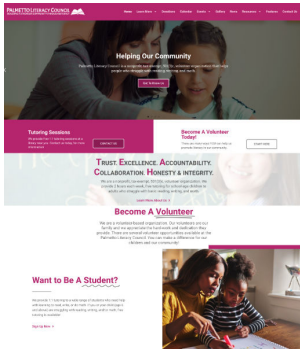
Editor's note: This information was obtained from the National Education Association

Paulina Alvarez-Pintado Earns a Certificate!

Paulina Alvarez-Pintado
earned a certificate!
Nancy Glynn is her tutor.



The PLC Website & Facebook Page See User-Friendly Changes



The Palmetto Literacy Council maintains a public website and Facebook page for parents, tutors, donors – and anyone else interested in learning about the organization.

When visiting the website at <https://palmettoliteracy.org>, you'll find a wealth of information: Math and reading strategies for tutors and parents, tips from our tutors, upcoming events, news, and features.



The features are human interest stories about the people who, together, give PLC its strength. These features may interest PLC donors, who can read about the accomplishments of students, the devotion of parents, and the commitment and hard work of volunteers.

On the website, you can also find current and archived galleries of pictures of the students who earn certificates in reading or math.

Our Facebook Page, found here: <https://www.facebook.com/palmettoliteracy>, is where many newsletter articles are linked. Every student who earns an achievement certificate is pictured there. Please follow the page and give these students a “like” or thumbs-up. Leave a comment if you can. It means a lot to our students, and they deserve it. A sense of accomplishment and recognition is important to them, and it only takes a minute.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for the PLC website or FB page, please e-mail kim@palmettoliteracy.org.

Haleli Cohen Has Completed Her Kindergarten Binder!



Haleli Cohen is the student and Sue Walters is the Tutor. Haleli has completed her Kindergarten binder and received her certificate. The last book had to do with making a hat and a mask, so after finishing the lesson exercises, they followed the directions and did just that!



Register For An Horry Co. Library Card And Get A Free WonderWorks Ticket In April

Readers will be treated to an extra special gift - other than the gift of learning - this April thanks to a collaboration between **WonderWorks Myrtle Beach** and the **Horry County Memorial Library System**. Those who visit one of the ten Horry County Memorial Library branches and register for a first-time library card in April will receive one **free ticket** to WonderWorks while supplies last. To get the details, [CLICK HERE](#).

Writing Workshop Needs Volunteers, Students, Parents



Everyone has a story to tell, and everyone is a writer. The Palmetto Literacy Council and Communal Pen, an initiative made possible by the South Carolina Arts Commission and The Athenaeum Press, are partnering for a writing workshop, “In Your Words,” on April 27 from 9-11 AM at the Chapin Memorial Library, 400 N. 14th Ave. in Myrtle Beach.

Write and share your story with the Palmetto Literacy Council and Communal Pen. Palmetto Literacy Council’s tutors, parents, and students are invited to this fun-filled workshop to write, share, and give affirmation to one another in this story-telling journey.

Writing (or drawing if that’s what you’re comfortable with) will be done in short 3–5-minute segments on the potential of one person to change a life or community, then share those stories with the workshop’s safe, supportive group.

It’s no accident that the workshop is being held at the end of National Volunteer Week – and that’s what need from all of you – to volunteer the effort to offer encouragement and share the love and importance of literacy. You have a voice and the opportunity to showcase your diverse and dynamic stories of South Carolina – in your own words.

“This workshop is so important for those who want to share their stories. It doesn’t matter if you write just a few lines. Your grammar doesn’t matter. It doesn’t matter if you draw your story. What’s important is to share that story, to use your voice in whatever way that works for you,” said Dr. Dodi Hodges, executive director of the Palmetto Literacy Council.

“Of the multiple organizations and initiatives that have collaborated with Communal Pen, The Palmetto Literacy Council is one of the most special,” said Athenaeum Press director Alli Crandall. “The Palmetto Literacy Council does such transformative work in helping members of our community read and write,” said Crandall. “We are honored to be a part of sharing the stories of volunteers and students, which really cut across all communities that call the Grand Strand home.

“It’s amazing how creative you can get when you stop caring about grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Some people just write a series of words, some people draw, but everyone will leave the workshop transformed,” said Crandall.

To download the Writing Workshop flyer, [CLICK HERE](#)



4th Annual Golf Charity Scramble Supporting Palmetto Literacy Council
Saturday, June 8, 2024, Burning Ridge Golf Course, 500 Burning Ridge Rd, Conway SC.

- 7:30 AM Check-in
- 8:30 shotgun start
- Welcome bag
- Prizes and Drawings
- Closest to the pin & Longest drive awards
- Breakfast & lunch included
- Purchase Mulligans online before check-in

This is a fun event! Lots of competition and just plain old fun! We have sponsorships available for holes, the event, and more. **Sign up for the Golf Scramble - [Click Here!](#)**

Want to help with the Golf Scramble? Please contact Sue Walters at sue@palmettoliteracy.org

A one-page copy of our Golf Flyer is attached to this email. You can print it and pass it around to interested parties.

→ See photos from the last tournament - [Click Here](#)



Travan Hairston Earns His First Certificate!

Travan Hairston (student) who recently started tutoring has earned his first certificate. Mary Zenker, his tutor, is very proud of him. We are proud of Travan and thankful to Mary for providing him with the guidance to learn.



Math Strategies for Parents



Here are some strategies parents can use to help their child with math. They are intended to help increase your child's understanding of math skills and to develop confidence in learning. We'll provide more parent strategies in subsequent newsletters.

General mathematics improvement strategies

Provide activities that enrich and relate mathematics to daily life:

- Talk about how many bowls to put out for dinner
- Fold napkins in different shapes
- Have your child count similar items as you put away groceries

- Have your child help measure ingredients for recipes
- Give your child change to count out to pay for small purchases at the store; have older children calculate the change
- Ask your child to compare prices of items by asking things like, “Which can of beans costs more?”
- Allow your child to weigh the fresh produce; have older children calculate the price by multiplying the price per pound by the number of pounds
- Read the days and dates on a calendar, talk about the number of days in the month, the number of days remaining until a special event, etc.
- Draw a scale map of your home and determine the best escape route in case of an emergency
- When traveling, write numbers on a grid and have your child color in the box as they see the numbers on signs or license plates
- Check your child’s assignment list daily

Editor’s note: This information is from the Northwestern Evaluation Association

Bill's Photo Tips for Tutors



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Your student has reached a milestone and now it’s time for a photo in the newsletter. For some quick and easy photo tips, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Upcoming Events

These events (except the Spelling Bee) take place at the office, 1010 5th Ave N, Ext., #102, Surfside Beach

Volunteer Orientation and Training

- Tuesday, May 14, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Thursday, May 23, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

We have 32 students waiting for Tutors (Please share with your friends). We have a great need for Tutors in Conway, Loris, Socastee, Carolina Forest.

Tutor Talks - Optional

- Friday, April 26, 10:00 AM - NOON
- Tuesday, April 30, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
- Monday, May 29, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
- Friday, May 31, 10:00 AM - NOON

Always a lot to learn and you get to meet fellow Tutors!

Golf Committee Meeting

- Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 9:00 AM

1st Annual Adult Team Spelling Bee

- Saturday, November 2, 2024, at St Michael’s Duffy Center. This event is for adults only and adult beverages will be available (cash bar). More information to come

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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