



## A Message From The Director

**Hello everyone!**

Wow! What a beautiful way to end the month of April and begin the new month of May! I hope you are enjoying the outdoors! We have lots going on at Palmetto Literacy Council (PLC)!

We have 100 volunteers! That is truly amazing! No matter how you volunteer for PLC, you are making a difference in people's lives!

The team has grown, and we have enough light from these wonderful volunteers to shine all over the county! The students are progressing at school and at work. You are helping to support the growth of more than just the student. Families are changing and growing. I keep hearing from our families that we are the answer to their prayers. Thank you!

While we have the most amazing volunteers at PLC, we need more. We have 36 students on the Wait List, so we are in dire need of people in Conway, Carolina Forest, Socastee, Surfside Beach, and Myrtle Beach. It's just 2 hours/week. Some of the students have been waiting a year.

### **Tutor Talks**

These meetings are open to anyone! It is a great place to review how to run the tutoring sessions, share strategies, and to meet other Tutors from all over the county. We've had requests for two Tutor Talks per month. So, that is what we are going to do! We will have one in the evening and keep one on the last Friday of the month at 10:00 am. See the **Dates to Note** in the newsletter.

### **CCU Student Intern**

A CCU Student will join us full-time for about 9 weeks through the RISE CCU/Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. Julius Forte is a senior at CCU, and he will help us with our efforts in Marketing and Philanthropy. Julius will be required to attend a class throughout his experience and report on his accomplishments and achievements at an end-of-semester celebration. Please drop by the office to introduce yourself to Julius. I'm excited about hearing his ideas and look forward to putting them in place!

### **Summer Tutoring**

We get asked frequently if we are a year-round program, which I answer with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" What does that mean? We tutor throughout the summer. The schedules for some of our Tutors'/Students' will change and tutoring can occur earlier in the day. Libraries typically open at 9 am. Some tutors/Student's schedules cannot change due to work schedules. We're flexible.

We encourage year-round tutoring, according to an article in the American Educational Research Journal, average students from Grade 1 through Grade 8, lost 17- 34% of the learning gains from the previous year (Attleberry & McEachin, 2020). That is scary. We can prevent some of this loss by having students read 20 minutes or more daily, have students practice their basic math facts, and participate in successful tutoring programs, like ours.

### **Breaks in Tutoring**

Everyone travels or takes time off in the summer to relax and rejuvenate. We encourage that in our program for Students, Tutors, and Volunteers. With occasional breaks in the routine,

our minds are then ready to learn. These breaks can be a week or two without losing much of the learning that occurred before the break. Longer than that, it starts to impact the learning. Our Students progress at a higher rate when they meet with their Tutors regularly for one hour, twice each week, just like during the school year.

We are in this together! Again, thank you, volunteers!

Please stay safe and healthy,

*Dodi*

## Daniel Aharon Cohen Completed an Opinion Section!



**Daniel Aharon Cohen** (Student) completed the Opinion Section of the Writing Process. His Tutor is Sandra Andujar-Wendland. This is our first pair to use the Writing Central program.

## 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>

## London Selwa is Moving Ahead

**London Selwa** has completed yet another section in her binder, Smart Steps Level 1 - Section 3. CONGRATULATIONS! Her tutor is Kathy Coulom.



## Volunteers



Want to give back to your community? It only takes 2 hours each week to tutor a child or adult who struggles with basic reading, writing, or math. We provide materials and training which are designed to meet the individual student's needs. We also provide training and opportunities to learn from other tutors (Tutor Talks).

**Nora Perron, Sue Walters, Sandy Wendland** - Tutors at the Carolina Forest Library. They were waiting for their students to arrive! Look at those beautiful smiling faces! This is PLC!

Here's where we need Tutors for Reading and Math. We have folks that are afraid of tutoring math, so I'm giving the grade levels. Most math students are learning to add, subtract, multiply, and divide - no calculus or trig. So, we put the math level in parentheses:

- 4 Students at Carolina Forest Library – 3 Reading, 1 Math (grade 2)
- 2 Students at the Chapin Memorial Library – 1 Reading, 1 Math (grade 4)
- 5 Students at Conway Library – 3 Reading, 2 Math (Grade 1 and Grade 3)
- 10 Students at Socastee Library – 10 Reading
- 7 Students at Surfside Beach Library – 6 Reading, 1 Math (Grade 5)
- 5 Students - Parents live near a couple of Libraries.
  - 1 Student - Conway Library or Carolina Forest - Reading
  - 4 Students - Socastee Library or Surfside Beach Library – 2 Reading, 2 Math (Grade 2 & Grade 4)

If you can help, please attend one of our Volunteer Orientation and Training sessions or give the office a call (843) 945-9278. We welcome you to bring friends to these sessions.

**Julia Smith Earns Another Certificate!**

**Julia Smith** completed Passages to Comprehension - Level 2 - Determine Key Concepts. Good job, Julia! Julia plans to learn how to surf this summer. Her tutor (for reading, not surfing) is Marie Woodward.



## PLC Is On WMBF Television



Check out the interview on Grand Strand Today on WMBF. Dr. Hodges talks about the Palmetto Literacy Council and what we do! They will be airing this segment several times. We do not have the days or times for those airings but you can see it any time online at this link:

<https://www.wmbfnews.com/video/2023/06/20/grand-strand-today-palmetto-literacy-council/>

## KLOVE Radio Station

Check out our KLOVE Online Radio Station with an interview they did with Dr. Hodges about Palmetto Literacy Council. Stations near us include: 88.9 FM-Myrtle Beach, 102.3 FM Lumberton, NC, 95.5 FM, Wilmington, NC, and 100.5 FM Wilmington, NC.

We'll post the recording on our Facebook page and our website once we get it!

## Reading Is Fundamental



Reading is the basis for learning and school success. While reading is learned primarily in the classroom, many students need extra time and help.

That's where organizations like the Palmetto Literacy Council come in. Research shows that tutoring is a great way for individuals and groups outside school to support learning. This guide presents some basic tips for reading tutors.

### How Tutoring Helps

#### For the learner

Creates a more favorable atmosphere for learning (particularly through the use of one-on-one instruction).

Provides more time on task, increased opportunities to read and immediate feedback  
Allows for immediate, positive and corrective feedback to help the learner stay on track and not repeat errors.

Can increase reading performance.

Can improve motivation and decrease frustration.

Enhances interpersonal skills as a bond is established with the tutor.

Allows for individual monitoring of progress to ensure that learning is taking place.

### **For the tutor**

Establishes important skills such as patience, trustworthiness, and responsibility  
Provides an opportunity for community service.

Enhances interpersonal skills.

Increases the tutor's own reading performance as a result of tutoring.

### **Tips for reading tutors**

#### **Be positive**

Praise goes a long way with learners who struggle in reading. Provide positive feedback when correct responses are made.

#### **Be attentive**

Stop learners immediately after an error. Show them what to do and provide them an opportunity to do it correctly. ("That word is 'trouble.' What word is this?"). Try not to use the word "no."

#### **Be precise**

Provide clear and direct instructions ("Say this word" rather than "Would you say it?").

#### **Be mindful of mistakes made during the session**

Record learner performance. Review anything that learners miss. Remember, learners "should say it like they know it."

#### **Be diligent**

Work from the beginning to the end of the tutoring session.

#### **Be innovative**

Keep tutoring sessions lively and dynamic.

#### **Be focused**

Try to ignore minor misbehavior. Only recognize good behavior.

#### **Be patient**

Show learners that you care about them through your commitment and encouragement.

#### **Be on time**

Arrive at least 15 minutes before the tutoring session begins. Make sure plans for the session and materials are ready so the session may begin as soon as the student arrives.

#### **Be committed**

Once you have begun to tutor a student, remain with that student throughout the year.

#### **Be results-oriented**

Gather learner performance data on a daily basis, and chart the data (using graphs, stars, etc.) to allow a visual display of improvements made in the program.

## Even the Doggos Like a Good Story

**Shabrique** reads to a therapy dog at the Chapin Memorial Library.



## Cheryl Burns - PLC Volunteer



“I like to run under the radar,” said **Cheryl Burns**, only half-jokingly. And run she does (figuratively) as a volunteer for the Palmetto Literacy Council.

Cheryl began volunteering at PLC in 2020, during the COVID pandemic. She plays a huge role in the organization, working behind the scenes as do many PLC volunteers. Without volunteers like Cheryl, the administrative, tracking, and assessment processes that go hand-in-hand with a non-profit organization would be left undone.

Cheryl began her volunteer work with PLC putting together student binders.

“But we discovered that our Laces program (a student data management system) that we purchased was being underused,” said Dodi Hodges, executive director of the Palmetto Literacy Council.

“Cheryl came into our office and announced she was going to develop the Laces database, and no one was to touch it unless she permitted them. I laughed heartily and proclaimed her our “Laces Czar,” said Dodi.

According to Dodi, Cheryl has added features to the database to help track materials, assessments, monthly reports, student/teacher pairings, and much more.

“Cheryl is amazing and makes my work so much easier. She runs reports when asked for grants, information meetings, and Board of Directors executive directors reports,” said Dodi.

Cheryl has some help inputting into the data system. Lana Miller inputs all the new students while Whitney Wopat enters the monthly reports sent by tutors.

“If anyone runs into a problem, they call me,” said Cheryl.

Cheryl grew up in Pennsylvania Amish and Mennonite country. But, she had big dreams. “You know the Mary Tyler Moore show that was on TV? In the opening scene, she throws her hat in the air and says, ‘I’m going to make it after all.’”

Those who watched the show can only assume that Mary’s hat eventually landed, maybe a few streets over. Cheryl’s proverbial beret entered the stratosphere – and beyond.

In 1982, an era in which many women still strove to break the “glass ceiling,” Cheryl shattered it. She created a business – writing bail bonds to get people out of jail – unusual work for a woman.

“We had bail agents in every state. That company and raising my three children was my life. I enjoy helping people. Everyone assumes that when you’re in jail you’re ‘bad.’ That’s not true. These people just needed guidance.”

Years later, when Cheryl sold the business, she made it a stipulation that she wanted to meet every bail agent across the country.

“My husband and I were on the road for two years. I truly loved every one of my bail agents and the chance to meet them. And I was overwhelmed when they told me how highly they regarded me,” she said.

With the kids grown and the company sold, Cheryl said she finally had time to volunteer. Why did she choose PLC?:

“I believe in children. If they can’t read, they can’t succeed in life. It makes me feel good to know I’m helping children. Ms. Dodi is a wonderful person and this organization is an outstanding place to work. I find it very rewarding,”

The admiration is mutual, said Dodi.

“I cannot imagine Cheryl ever leaving. She has been my rock when things felt like they were floating away. I learn from her all the time.”

Cheryl’s philosophy for living is simple, so simple it may seem elusive to some.

“I enjoy every day of my life. Every moment is a blessing. If you smile at every person you see, you might make a difference in their life,” she said.

## Be'eri Cohen Completed Decoder Kids!

**Be'eri Cohen** (student)  
with Mom (Mrs. Cohen).  
The Tutor is Nora Perron-Jones.  
This is his first certificate  
earned for completing a section.



# Palmetto Literacy Council Charity Golf Scramble



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

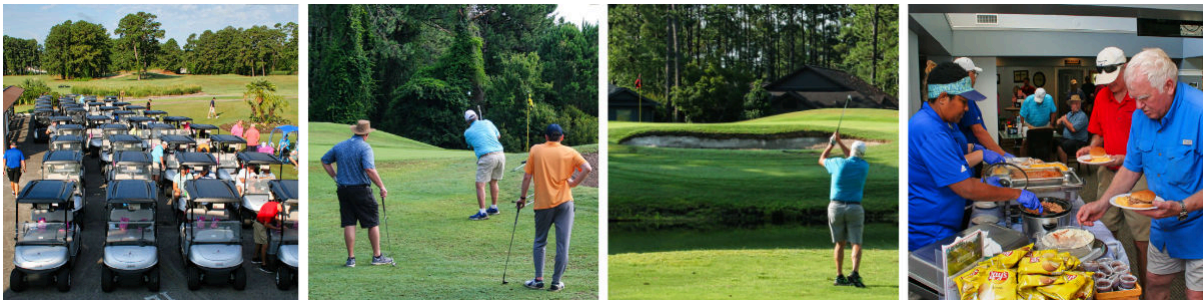
- 7:30 AM Check-in
- 8:30 shotgun start
- Welcome bag
- Prizes and Drawings
- Closest to the pin & Longest drive awards
- Breakfast & lunch included
- Purchase Mulligans online before check-in

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](mailto: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](#)



## Jordan Graves Completed Passages to Comprehension - Level 3

**Michael Hinebrook**, Tutor, and **Jordan Graves**, Student. Jordan completed Passages to Comprehension - Level 3. Jordan practiced with his mom at home and worked hard to achieve this certificate while smiling the entire time. He is going to miss Mr. Mike. He was slightly behind in school so we gave Mom some materials to work with him at home. Michael is leaving until next fall. We will miss his positive attitude and smile and look forward to his return. We will miss Jordan as well, he has officially graduated. This is another success story!





Michael Hinebrook says, "I loved Jordan's smile at achieving this reading goal. It was a great experience for me and time well spent. Jordan plans to keep reading and practicing his skills."

## Speaking Engagements

If you have a service organization and need speakers, we would be happy to provide your organization with information about the Palmetto Literacy Council. Contact us here:

Email: [info@palmettoliteracy.org](mailto:info@palmettoliteracy.org)

Office Phone: [\(843\) 945-9278](tel:(843)945-9278)

## Math Strategies for Parents (And Tutors, Too!)



This is part two of an article that first appeared in the Palmetto Literacy Council in April about how parents can help their students with math. You can find the first part on the PLC web site:

<https://palmettoliteracy.org/2024/04/08/math-strategies-for-parents/>

### Provide some math activities at home or while tutoring

Each person rolls the dice and adds, subtracts, or multiplies the numbers.

Dice and money. Each person rolls a die and gets the number of pennies as dots shown. When someone gets five pennies they trade it in for a nickel, dime, and so forth, until they're trading for a dollar.

For two people, give each person 13 cards from a deck of cards, have each person flip a card, then have your child decide whose card has the higher value to determine who wins the set of cards. In a tie, place three additional cards face-down, then turn the last card up; the higher card on that turn wins all the cards. Play until one person has all the cards in the deck.

Newspapers and magazines. Find numbers in print and cut them out, then glue them in the correct order onto a larger sheet of paper.

### Computation

Count orally by twos, fives, or tens.

Complete connect-the-dot pictures.

Have your child make a number book that contains a page for each numeral from one to ten. On each page, have your child glue clippings from newspapers and magazines illustrating that number concept (two dogs, three ducks, or four horses). As your child progresses with number recognition, they can add to the book and add numerical figures used in various ways.

Count and pair objects found around the house and determine whether there's an odd or even number of items.

Review math facts at home, in the car, waiting in line, or during other downtime.

Provide your child with verbal math problems. "Take the number five; add six; multiply by three; subtract three; divide by five. What's your answer?" Speak slowly at first until your child gets better at solving these mental problems.

Help your child identify percentages in signs, newspapers, and magazines.

Encourage your child to read nutrition labels. Have them calculate the percent of a specific nutrient in each item.

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

## Dates to Note

You can always check the Calendar on the PLC website. [Click Here](#).  
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, 2024, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Thursday, May 23, 2024, 5:30 pm - 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

Tutors share ideas, ask for ideas, and get to know each other!

- Monday, May 29, 2024, 5:30 pm
- Friday, May 31, 2024, 10:00 am

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

### Golf Committee Meeting

Tuesday mornings until the Golf Scramble, at 9:30 AM. For more information about the Golf Scramble see the attached flyer.

### 4th Annual Golf Tournament

- Saturday, June 8.

We are looking for golfers! So many prizes! So much fun! Come and spend a productive, fun, engaging Saturday morning at Burning Ridge Golf Course. Invite your friends to join the fun!

### 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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