

PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY THROUGH LITERACY



1435 Cannon Road, #101, Myrtle Beach SC 29577 [Google Map](#)



A Message From The Director

Spring Has Sprung!

The flowers are blooming, and the crepe myrtles are growing their limbs back! I love spring. New life and new energy!

We want to congratulate **Shabrique Spratt** on graduating from Palmetto Literacy Council as our third graduate of the year! It is so exciting. Shabrique has won awards for her reading at school, and we couldn't be more excited for her!

Welcome to **Ellen Sycks** as our new Director of Philanthropy and Communications. Ellen brings a ton of experience in fundraising and communications! We are so excited about having her on our team!

We are changing the date of the Golf Scramble for this year. It will be held Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Shaftesbury Glen Golf and Fish Club (same venue - different date). September is International Family Literacy Month! We'll celebrate literacy at this event for sure! Ellen will send out a message soon to get the volunteers willing to help with planning this event.

We are hiring an Adult English Language Learner Program Manager. This person needs experience with curriculum design and implementation. We'll interview candidates soon. Please contact **Joanne Cherry** (joannec@palmettoliteracy.org) and send her your resume.

Veronica DeCicco has resigned from the Board of Directors and as a Volunteer Screening Coordinator. She has been invaluable as a screener. Her Educational Consultant position requires her to travel more, and I'm sure they find her as invaluable as we have found her. Therefore, it was becoming too difficult to balance the job and her PLC volunteer duties. She is still a member of our team and wants to stay involved as much as she can. We are excited about her and her opportunities! They are well deserved!

That does mean that we are looking for someone to help as a Volunteer Screening Coordinator. The Screening Coordinator will work with **JoAnne Murray**, who is our fabulous Screening Coordinator, and is doing it as one person. We probably need three. We use the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) for reading; it is like a running record (for those of you in education). I'd be happy to discuss this volunteer position with you, just email, text, or call me: dodi@palmettoliteracy.org or 843-685-5863.

Stay safe and healthy!

Dodi

Remember, our new address is: **1435 Cannon Road, #101, Myrtle Beach SC 29577** ([Click here](#) for a Google Map of this address)

Our Kids Are Making Progress!



Claudia Parks has completed section 3 of Binder R1-14. She is an enthusiastic learner and has made great strides in her reading journey. She is a pleasure to tutor.



Haines Campbell has finished his first binder.



Emma Penafiel-Alvarado shows her certificate for *Decoder Kids: Early Kindergarten, Section One*. Her tutor is Emily Clover. We are all so proud of Emma! She is a hard-working, sweet girl.

Nonprofit of the Month!



The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce named the Palmetto Literacy Council as the Nonprofit of the Month for March!



Donations

We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3). We use grants and donations to provide free tutoring for our children and adults in Horry County who struggle with basic reading, writing, and/or math. Thank you to all who have donated to our organization. Your donations have provided materials for our Volunteer Tutors to use and helped our students learn!

Due to our growth, we need funding to purchase computers, desks, and supplies. 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>

Shabrique Spratt Graduated!



Shabrique Spratt graduated from PLC! Her tutor was Diane Goncalves. She was joined in the celebration by Diane Goncalves, JoAnne Murray, VL, Shabrique's mom, cousin, and nephew.



Ellen Sycks Joins PLC as Director of Philanthropy and Communications

For more than 35 years, **Ellen Sycks** has been dedicated to soliciting private philanthropic and public support for non-profit organizations on a national and local level. Her goal is to unite charitable organizations and those dedicated to the betterment of local communities and the people who live there. Her focus has been on creating annual fund, major gift and planned giving opportunities targeted at organizations' programs, special projects and capital campaigns.

Ellen is a member of the *Association of Fund Raising Professionals*; is a graduate of *Leadership Columbus* (Ohio); and served as an executive fellow of the *Academy of Leadership and Governance* at the Jefferson Center (Columbus, Ohio)

Ellen is a rabid sports fan, loves to read and volunteers in her spare time. She lives in Murrells Inlet with her husband Jay and their two cats, Mabel and Murray.

Our Students Are Making Progress!



Luis Murrieta completed the read-closely section of his 3rd-grade binder. His tutor is Lois Berlin.



Willie Scott completed *Passages to Comprehension, Level 2, Analyze Text Elements*. His tutor is Barbara Rothfork.



Be'eri Cohen completed *Smart Steps Level K, Section 1*. He is making some awesome progress! His tutor is Nora Perron-Jones

First Friday Socials

Look for emails announcing the location of the **First Friday Socials** for Palmetto Literacy Council. This is a time for you to meet and get to know other PLC folks. We're talking about PLC, our focus here is to get to know each other! Oh...it's happy hour too! So, the next First Friday (first Friday of the month) is **FRIDAY, May 2, 2025**

It is the hope of PLC that you can attend some of these happy hours, and share some apps and cocktails while getting to know one another. All tutoring and no play make for a dull day!

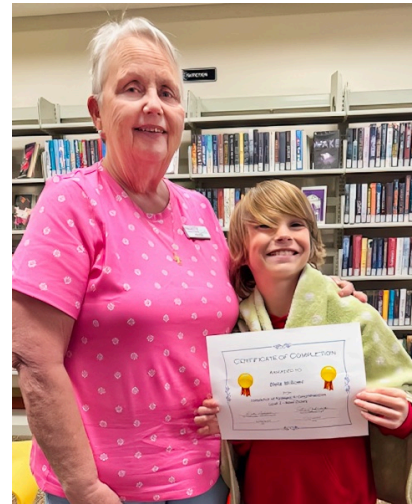
Here's a photo from the March First Friday Social. In the photo are Sandra Wendland, Gail Arsenault, Katie Minehan, Mary Beth Topczynski, Nora Perron-Jones with husband Bruce, Joanne Cherry, and her husband John. John is shooting the picture.



Our Kids Are Making Progress!



Holden Beard just received his 3rd certificate! This one is for *Smart Steps, Level K, Section 3*. Holden's tutor is Chelsea Murray.



Blake Williams received his first certificate. He completed Level 2 - Read Closely. His tutor is Patricia Jabonaski.

Volunteers

Want to give back to your community? It only takes 2 hours each week to tutor a child or adult who struggle with basic reading, writing, and/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).

If you can help, please attend one of our **Volunteer Orientation and Training** sessions or give the office a call (843) 945-9278. You can check when the Volunteer Orientation and Training sessions are scheduled on our [Calendar](#) on our website. We welcome you to bring friends to these sessions.

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

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

2025 Golf Scramble Announcement!



The **2025 PLC Golf Scamble** will take place at **Shaftesbury Glen Golf & Fish Club** on **September 13**. The course is located at 951 Shaftesbury Ln, Conway, SC. ([Google Map](#))

More information to come! Lots of competition and just plain old fun! Raffles, games, and more! We have sponsorships available for holes, the event, and even more.

Yes, we're putting together a committee for this event. Look for an email from **Ellen Sycks**, Director of Philanthropy and Communications, or let her know you would like to help. ellen@palmettoliteracy.org, or call her, Ellen's office: [\(843\) 839-9102](tel:(843)839-9102).

Much more information will be coming over the next few months. Visit Shaftesburyglen.com for more course photos.

Dates to Note

You can always check the Calendar on the PLC website. [Click Here](#).

These events take place at the office,

1435 Cannon Road, #101, Myrtle Beach SC. ([Google Map](#))

Our sign is above our entrance door. If you find yourself in front of a yellow building, that is the wrong building. We are in the brick and stucco building next door.

Tutor Talks

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

April Topic: What is Dyslexia and How do We Help?

- Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 6:00 pm
- Friday, April 25, 2025, 10:00 am – coffee and treats!

May Topic: TBD

- Monday, May 26, 2025, 6:00 pm
- Friday, May 30, 2025, 10:00 am

Volunteer Orientations and Training

If you know anyone interested in volunteering to tutor, please let them know about the Volunteer Orientations and Training (VOT).

- Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 5:30 pm
 - Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30 pm
 - Thursday, May 29, 2025, 3:00 pm
-

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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