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PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL



Building a Stronger Community Through Literacy

Our Students Are Making Great Progress!



Braylen



Braylen



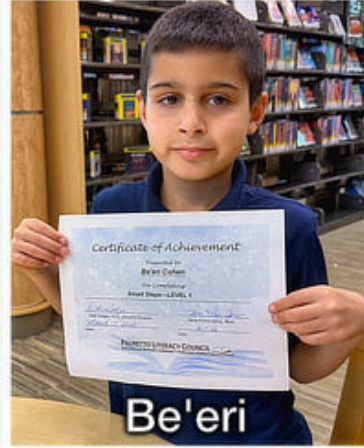
Christopher



Trinity



Jace



Be'eri



Mathias



Haleigh



Laila



Braxton

Your donation
helps these
students
progress.

Please
Donate Now

Braylen Lucky completed Grade 1. His eyes opened wide when he saw the binder he had completed. His tutor is Stephanie Chaharbaghi.

It's **Braylen Lucky** again! We're so proud of Braylen. He is trying harder and has improved so much! His tutor is Stephanie Chaharbaghi.

Christopher Irving has completed the Analyze Text Elements section for Reading. His tutor is Mona Prufer.

Trinity Taylor has completed Smart Steps Level 1, Section 1. Her tutor is Corina Richardson.

Jace Webb has completed Passages to Comprehension, Level 2. His tutor is Angelo Melendez.

Be'eri Cohen has completed Smart Steps, Level 1. His tutor is Nora Perron-Jones.

Mathias Miranda-Martinez received his certificate for completing 1st-grade Smart Steps Level 1, Section 1. Mathias is hard-working and stays focused on doing well. He is a delight! His tutor is Pat O'Quinn.

Haleigh Tripp continues to make great progress. Her tutor, Lois Wood, says "She has shown tremendous growth in the way she dissects and interprets each story we read. Our time together is always the highlight of my day."

Laila Alston has completed Chapter 1, Mammoth Math Binder 1. Laila is a very hard worker and a pleasure to work with. Laila's tutor is Diane Rumpfelt.

Braxton Simon completed the Passages to Comprehension, Level 4 binder. His tutor is Karen Dockstader.



ATI Foundation Grant

Palmetto Literacy Council is happy to announce that the **ATI Foundation** has awarded PLC a \$42,000 grant to support the expansion of our tutor and student populations. This grant will fund a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, volunteer outreach efforts, recruitment of tutors and students, and the screening, assessment, and training of students and volunteer tutors.

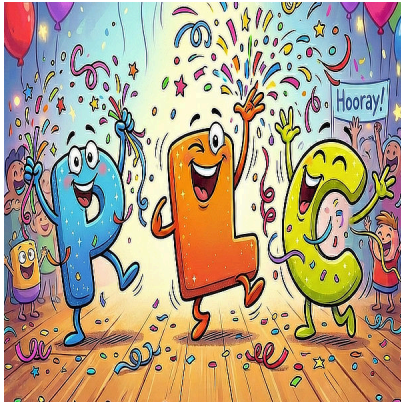


Volunteers are a critical element of PLC's literacy program, and this grant from ATI Foundation supports the important role that volunteers play in

helping our school-aged students and adults who struggle with basic reading, writing and/or math.

Thank you, ATI Foundation, for your investment in our students' academic and workforce futures.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception



We are looking forward to celebrating our volunteers at an Open House on **April 24, 2026**, from **2:00 pm to 4 pm**, during National Volunteer Appreciation Week. The Open House will be held at our office. Refreshments...wine & goodies.

RSVP to **Ellen Sycks** at ellen@palmettoliteracy.org or call **843-839-9102**.

The Socastee Library Now Has Three Volunteer Liaisons



Dr. Connie Stinson



Dr. Diane Kirkwood

We are pleased to announce that the Socastee Library will now have **THREE (3) Volunteer Liaisons!** **Dr. Connie Stinson** and **Dr. Diane Kirkwood** will join **Margaret Burke** as Co-Volunteer Liaisons! The need for our literacy programs is growing, and these great volunteers in the Socastee area will help tremendously!

Penny Gardin Lewis and Christine Williams

Join the PLC Board



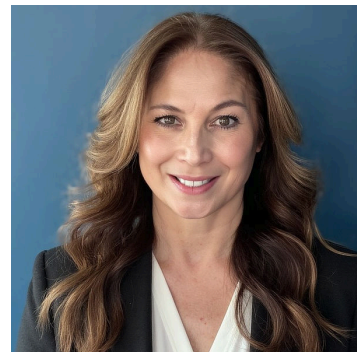
Penny Gardin Lewis, a Berry College graduate, retired as Director of the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center in Georgia, where she oversaw a theatre, two art galleries, the literary arts, a major art festival, Art in Education, and approximately 162 art-related programs each year.

She is the author of thirty-eight musicals for young children, three novels, and one short story collection: *Bearing Crosses*, *Microwave Is Dead*, *Dear Crabgail* and *Jelly Biscuits - Stories and Conversations From the South*.

Penny and her husband, Dan, moved to Myrtle Beach, where they enjoy hosting family and friends. They keep packed beach bags in all of their guest rooms, as well as baskets of flip-flops.

When she's not at the beach, Penny spends her retirement, going to the movies and luncheons with a growing number of girlfriends, tending her flower beds, creating mixed media works of art, writing novels and short stories, performing oral readings, helping ladies make art in various she sheds and assisted living facilities on the Grand Strand, and volunteering with the Palmetto Literacy Council.

Christine Williams is the local market President in Myrtle Beach for Bank of America. In addition to this role, she is also the executive leader for the Consumer Complaints Review Unit. This enterprise team provides centralized and consistent independent assessments of closed customer complaints.



Christine's tenure with Bank of America spans over 30 years and multiple locations. She joined the bank as part of the Financial Center management training program in Richmond, VA. She has worked in a variety of roles throughout her career including being a Market Executive overseeing 30+ Financial Centers in the DC/MD/VA area. While living in Seattle, WA she served as a Private Bank Client Advisor, Business Support Executive for the Northwest Region, and Third Party/Vendor Management.

She has been a Myrtle Beach resident for the past 10 years where she resides with her partner Jeremy and their two dogs, Kona and Kaia.



Donna Basting is one of our New Student Screeners



PLC welcomes **Donna Basting**, who has joined us as one of our Student Screeners.

Donna served as a Middle and English teacher in the suburbs of New York for 15 years. She also served as NY School and District Administrator for 15 years (Assistant Principal, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction).

Donna has lived in South Carolina for three years. She is the mother of four sons, grandmother to four grandsons, and enjoys reading, exercising, and

traveling.



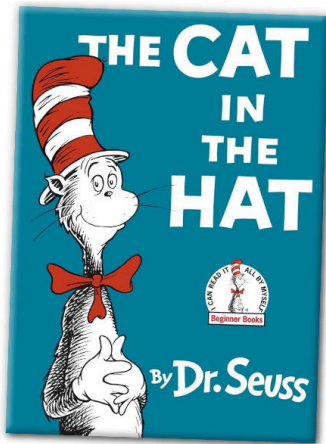
Mike Konkel is our New Grant Writer

Mike Konkel is originally from North Dakota and spent 25 years in the United States Navy - submarine force. Following his military service, he worked in the manufacturing of air conditioning and refrigeration compressors. He and his wife Kathy live in Myrtle Beach and enjoy all the wonderful things that “beach life” has to offer.



Coming Soon . . .

It will come with a **THUMP!** It will come with a **ZAT!** It will knock the red hat right off of the Cat! It's not in a box, and it's not on a shelf. It's a secret I'm keeping all here to myself.



It's bigger than whales! It's faster than foxes! It's better than things found in red wooden boxes. The Fish in the bowl will give a big **CHEER!** And say, *"I just love when a big surprise is here!"*

He'll flip, and he'll flop with a grin on his face, and splash lots of water all over the place! For I'll give you a hint, and I'll give you a wink, It's much more amazing than you'd ever think!



A Message From Our Director

Hello All

Beautiful Spring weather! We hope you have been enjoying all of the blooms despite the yellow-green stuff that comes as well!

Summer - Some of our students will not be tutored. Please encourage them to read, even if they are math students. Students lose between 30% to 39% of what they learned during the regular school year. We have found that our students keep more of what they learned if they stay in tutoring. We keep them actively engaged.

Tutor Subs - Another change! We are fortunate to have several volunteers who come to our area in the fall and stay until late spring. For some reason, they go up north in the summer (sarcasm-I totally get it!). We can pair them with a student if they come early enough in the fall. Otherwise, they are here too short of a time. We are going to start a **Substitute Volunteer Tutor** list. If you think, as a parent of a student, an adult student, or a Volunteer Tutor, that this might be beneficial for you, please contact Dodi.

Subs will be available if the Volunteer Tutors are absent for two weeks or more. It will be up to the parents/adult student and the Volunteer Tutor to agree that a Substitute Volunteer Tutor will work.

Volunteer Coordinator - We're in the process of hiring a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, Monday through Friday, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. There is a pop-up window on our website with a job description. We have a committee reviewing the applicants and hope to hire soon.

We have lots of joy, celebration, and above all...lots of changes.
Have a great month, enjoy the holidays, as you are celebrating! If you are not celebrating a holiday, have a wonderful month!

Stay safe and healthy,

Dodi



Volunteer Orientation and Training

All VOT takes place at our office at
1435 Cannon Road, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

[Google Map](#)

- Wednesday, **April 15**, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, **April 28**, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- Thursday, **May 14**, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, **May 26**, 5:30 pm - 7:30 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.

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!

[Donate Now](#)



1435 Cannon Road, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
palmettoliteracy.org • (843) 945-9278

Please remember to include Palmetto Literacy Council in your estate planning. Questions? Contact **Ellen Sycks**, *Director of Philanthropy and Communications*, at (843) 839-9102 or ellen@palmettoliteracy.org.

