



The Bridge



A Publication of: The Literacy Council of Chelan and Douglas Counties

Winter is here! And it brings along much activity for the Literacy Council. A party is in the works to acknowledge and honor all the efforts our tutors put into the program; a book exchange is being developed; and the first tutor training of the year is scheduled for early January. We are also working closely with Stemilt Growers to bring an English tutoring class to one of the packing plants. And all this is happening while a number of new students are registering and early preparation for the **April 17th Spelling Bee** is under way. Welcome! To our winter edition of The Bridge.

Volunteer Recognition

Thank You All

The Literacy Council will be hosting a volunteer recognition event in early 2009. All current tutors, students, and advisory board members are invited to attend.

While the focus of this event is to pay tribute to the tutors of the Literacy Council, we will set aside time for volunteers and students to network with one another. This will be a time for people to share what has worked well in their classes, get advice on how to approach a difficult situation, or simply converse about anything they wish to.

Finally this will be a great opportunity to welcome a new group of volunteers. This group will start training and teaching in January and will surely have lots of questions for the more experienced tutors.

Look for your invitation in the mail!

Book Exchange

Our New Venture

A new program is coming to the Literacy Council in 2009: A children's book exchange. Bins will be placed around local businesses such as Hastings and the library to collect used books. Donated books will then be distributed at social events to promote literacy, family reading, and of course the Literacy Council.

As this project is still in the planning phase, any ideas to contribute towards its success would be greatly appreciated.

A Word From Roy Draggoo

Member of the Advisory Board

Motivational speaker James Rohn said, "If you want life to be safe then we can put you in a corner and cover you with a blanket and you can live to be 100. But I can guarantee you this. You're not getting out of this alive." He was speaking tongue in cheek of course but his message is clear. Life is not safe. There are no guarantees so you better squeeze as much adventure out of it as you can with whatever time you have.

Adventure can be as complicated as walking 600 miles across Spain (In the summer of 2007), as simple and satisfying as listening to a child read (I teach first grade) or listening to a sleeping baby breathe. I have a sign in my classroom that says, "Life is short but childhood is shorter."



Don't wait. It can be solo (Take up a new hobby) or as a member of a group (I toured as a professional musician with my brothers for years). Give service to others (Volunteer), learn (I am a National Board Certified

teacher), read (Tolle, Hawking, Sagan, etc.), teach (Become a Literacy Council tutor), explore both within yourself and the world around you, engage with all of your senses and involve yourself in your passions.

Be thoughtful, forgiving, and kind. Now. Go, do, journey, seek, live. Life is risky and you're not getting out of it alive!

*"Let people have an education and you can't stop them."
- La Monte Young*

Annual Spelling Bee: Mark Your Calendar

Get Ready!

The annual Spelling Bee is fast approaching. **This year's Bee is scheduled for April 17th at Chateau Faire le Pont.** We invite everyone to join us for a gourmet dinner, a little wine, and great desserts. This is the most fun fund raising event in Chelan and Douglas Counties!



The Spelling Bee raises money to buy books and materials for our students and tutors. In previous years this event has raised over \$6,400 for the Literacy Council.

The event will begin at 5:30 PM with a social hour. A dinner prepared by the Chateau Faire le Pont Chef will be served at 6:30 PM. The Spelling Bee will follow. Teams are

organized in tables of six or eight: Spelling of words is a team effort! There will also be a silent auction featuring desserts made and donated by Literacy Council supporters to benefit our program.

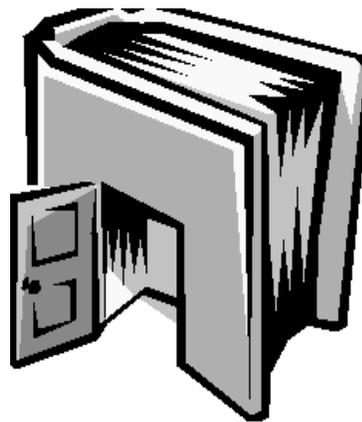
The evening is sure to provide participants with a lot of fun, great food, excellent wine, and a valued contribution to a worthy cause. We hope to raise some much needed funds to support the Literacy Council's efforts through 2009.

Classes at Stemilt

The Literacy Council plans to bring its services to Stemilt Growers. Currently two classes are being developed and are set to begin in February.

The original plan is to have one small class of about 15 students taught by two tutors. There will also be a conversation group that will meet once a week which any employee can attend.

After the model for these classes has been successfully developed, the Literacy Council would like to extend its services to other fruit packing companies. This unique opportunity will make our services accessible to more students while increasing the Literacy Council's visibility in the community.



The Literacy Council of
Chelan and Douglas Counties

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Tutor Training

January 9th
January 30th
February 27th

Get the word out that the Literacy Council is looking for volunteers to join the ranks of its tutors!

Participation in nine total hours of tutor training is required. Each session begins at 6 pm in the Veteran's hall. Current tutors and board members are encouraged to attend to help welcome our new members!

Literacy Month

March is designated as 'Literacy Month' by Rotary International. The goal of this month is to highlight literacy and education issues, both domestic and international. It is also a time when clubs take action to celebrate and raise awareness about literacy in their local community. You can learn more at: wenatcheerotary.org