

Vision Literacy

Partners Creating Opportunities

Tutor and Volunteer Newsletter

Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara County Library

June 2008

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING!



This is the time of year when we celebrate graduations and completions of many kinds. We want to honor all of our learners who have finished classes and workshops in improving their literacy skills.

We also want to thank all of our tutors and volunteers for encouraging and helping the learners achieve their goals. The following are quotes from famous people about graduating.

Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures. ~H. Jackson Brown, Jr., *Life's Little Instruction Book*

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Life is my college. May I graduate well, and earn some honors! ~Louisa May Alcott

You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world. ~Tom Brokaw

Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you'll make a difference. ~Arie Pencovici

LEARNER'S VICTORY WITH COMPUTERS

by Esther, Learner – South County

You have no idea how much this class has helped me before I came here I was afraid to touch the computers now I can communicate with people and especially with my husband he is very happy that I am learning I also send resumes. I am very thankful for this class thank you so much I hope I can take this class again thank you again.



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PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Small Group Tutoring at the Toll House Hotel

Vision Literacy moves towards facilitating small groups – we reported in June that seven tutors are being trained at the Toll House Hotel Project – where they are in their second session of working in small groups with hotel employees from their hospitality and food service departments. This pilot project has been a win-win for everyone involved from the Toll House employees, management, tutors and Vision Literacy.

The WINS:

- The employees, with their various levels of English are getting more direct attention; they are improving their confidence in talking with the guests, and thinking about where they want to grow within the company.
- The tutors are learning how to lead small groups learning from each other and strengthening their skills.
- Management at the Toll House is experiencing more comment cards from guest requests have been taken care of faster. The staff is able field the guests' requests, thus serving the guests better and more quickly. Management has also seen a huge confidence in staff and that they have been able to talk better with other staff

One of the learners, Oscar Vazquez, a Food Server in the Restaurant Three Degrees wants to be the person that trains other food servers within the Larkspur corporation. About the training, Oscar said, "I thought I did not have a challenge in speaking English, until I started the class and I realized that I could have challenges in the future to grow my career with the hotel. I became aware that to move up within the company I need to improve my writing and pronunciation." Oscar is now in the second session of



Tutors: Please submit monthly progress reports, by mail or online at www.visionliteracy.org. 408-262-1349

Due date: July 3rd. Thanks!



**2008
WRITER TO WRITER
CHALLENGE!**

If you could write a letter to any author, living or dead, whom would you, choose? Writer To Writer is a Writing Challenge for adult learners.

Tutors, please encourage your adult learners to write a letter to an author whose writing has changed the way they think about themselves or their life. The letter does not have to be lengthy – this is a friendly note to your favorite author of 500 words or less.

SUBMITTING ENTRIES DEADLINE* THURS., JUL. 31
WINNERS ANNOUNCED* WED., SEP. 8
AWARDS CEREMONY IN SAN JOSE* FRI., NOV. 14

*Dates subject to change, please check with Vision Literacy.

TUTOR TIP - SUMMER READING FOR FAMILIES:

This month's tip comes from the Reading is Fundamental website.



Experts agree: Children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often experience learning losses. Kids across the nation are sure to find reading enticing this summer with these tips.

- Combine activities with books. Summer leaves lots of time for kids to enjoy fun activities such as going to the park, seeing a movie, or going to the beach. Encourage them to read a book about the activity. If you're going to a baseball game, suggest your child read a book about his or her favorite player beforehand. In the car or over a hot dog, you'll have lots of time to talk about the book and the game.
- Talk it up. Talking with your kids about what you have read also lets them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you -- soon they might start doing the same.
- Use books to break the boredom. Without the regular school regimen, adults and kids need more activities to fill the hours. Books that teach kids how to make or do something are a great way to get kids reading and keep them occupied.
- Read aloud with kids. Take your children to see a local storyteller or be one yourself. The summer months leave extra time for enthusiastic read-alouds with children no matter what their age. Don't forget to improvise different voices or wear a silly hat to make the story that much more interesting!

For complete list of tips go to: www.education.com/magazine/article/summer_reading_tips_for_families/

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

The third annual Festival of Books took place June 8th at the Children's Discovery Museum. More than 5,500 children and parents from throughout Silicon Valley participated in a day of reading, arts and crafts, family storytelling, performances and presentations from prominent Bay Area authors and community leaders.



The Festival of Books was sponsored by Target and First 5 Santa Clara County, and was organized through the Silicon Valley Read Aloud Collaborative, chaired by Bring Me A Book and composed of the following nonprofit organizations: Catholic Charities, Raising A Reader, Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, Grail Family Services, Reach Out and Read, Santa Clara County Office of Education, San Jose Public Library and Vision Literacy.



BOOK MARK THE DATE!

GILROY INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED ESL CLASSES

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 651 Broadway
 Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-8pm
 For info and to register call 408-848-5366.

STUDENT GET TOGETHER EVENT

Please encourage your students to attend!
Milpitas Library, 40 N. Milpitas Blvd.
 Sat., June 28 10:30am-12:30pm
 For info and to register call 408-262-1349.

ORIENTATION COMING UP - TELL A FRIEND

Vision Literacy will be offering orientation sessions in August. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to share the gift of reading – as a tutor, volunteer or donor – please invite them to call the Vision Literacy office at 408-262-1349 to register.

Milpitas Library, 40 N. Milpitas Blvd.

Sat., Aug. 23 10:30-11:30am

Cupertino Library, 10800 Torre Ave.

Mon., Aug. 25 6:30-7:30pm

Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St.

Thurs., Aug. 28 6:30-7:30pm

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT - Save the Date!

Toll House Hotel, 140 S. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos
 Sat., Oct. 18 10am-12 noon
 To RSVP call 408-262-1349 or email info@visionliteracy.org

**If you have a question, comment or submission for the newsletter, please contact 408-262-1349 or info@visionliteracy.org.
 Next deadline for submissions: July 3rd.**