

Vision LITERACY

Partners Creating Opportunities

Tutor and Volunteer Newsletter

Library

July 2008

SUMMER READING IN MILPITAS!



Jamie Yao
Read to Succeed! Founder
2008 Graduate of Milpitas
High School. She will be
attending UCLA in the Fall.

Read to Succeed! is a summer community program in cooperation with the Milpitas Library and sponsored by Vision Literacy. *Read to Succeed!* is the brainchild of Jamie Yao. As a sophomore in 2006, she launched the program with 25 tutors and 40 students. In 2007 and 2008 they had 50 tutors and 70 students.

High school volunteer tutors tutor children entering first through seventh grades. These participants are split up into groups based on age and reading level, with smaller groups (2-3 members) for younger students and larger groups (4-6 members) for older students. Some participants receive one-on-one tutoring, which is disbursed based on need. Tutors do various projects with their groups. These include writing assignments, tests, vocabulary, arts and crafts, Reader's Theatre, discussions, and more.

Most importantly, the tutors read with the children and help them with comprehension. Books chosen by the Milpitas Library, are usually classics like *The Witches*, *The Giver*, *Wayside School*, *Holes*, *The Westing Game*, *Animal Farm*, and other assorted novels. Younger students read picture books. For more program info. email: ReadToSucceed@gmail.com.



Jamie Yao tutoring
7 year old Jane.

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Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara County

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION SPOTLIGHT: Q&A with Jamie Yao, *Read to Succeed!* Founder

How did you come up with *Read to Succeed!*? In 2005, the idea for the program actually stemmed from different sources of motivation. As a member of Milpitas High School's Book Club, I was interested in helping to perpetuate our mission of improving literacy in the community. Milpitas is a community full of immigrant families; I thought it was all the more important to help children learn how to read because of the fact that many children may not be able to get that extra help at home. This realization came to me through a story I read in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, in which a boy helped his own grandfather, who did not have access to reading when he was younger, learn how to read.

How did you get other High School students involved? As I was coming up with the idea for the program, I became more excited about how I could get other High School students helping younger kids. A lot of High School students want to engage in community service that is fulfilling. I make presentations to the Honors English classes to get volunteers. We now have over 50 Milpitas High School students tutoring the kids. In fact, this summer we started a volunteer application process because we had had an excess of high school students interested in volunteering.

How has Vision Literacy helped *Read to Succeed!*? We were excited when Linda Arbaugh, the Milpitas Community Librarian, introduced us to Vision Literacy. To partner with Vision Literacy felt like a great thing to do. Vision Literacy is now our program sponsor, they provided us with literacy training, so we could be better tutors for our students. Anh Nguyen, the other co-coordinator, told me that Vision Literacy's training was very instrumental in helping our tutors improve their skills and showing them different ways to tutor. Vision Literacy also helped us by giving us ideas on how to work with the different literacy needs of our students.

For complete spotlight go to www.visionliteracy.org



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

Due date: Aug. 3rd. Thanks!

2008 WRITER TO WRITER CHALLENGE!



ENTRY DEADLINE*
THURSDAY, JULY 31

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 of 500 words or less to your favorite author.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED* **WED., SEP. 8**

AWARDS CEREMONY IN SAN JOSE* **FRI., NOV. 14**

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

Tutor Tip - WONDERING WHAT TO WRITE?

USE A PROMPT:

This month's tip comes from the BALIT website, www.literacynet.org/balit/tips/tip_2008_2.html.

Even the most prolific writers will find themselves staring at a blank page or screen, at a loss for what to write. Writing prompts can be helpful launching points for a quick write, paragraph practice, essay, or story writing.



Many web pages offer suggestions of prompts. For example:

1. Writer's Digest offers more than 52 ideas – at least one for every week of the year – on its web site:
www.writersdigest.com/writingprompts.asp
2. The Teacher's Corner has one for every day of the school year:
www.theteacherscorner.net/daily-writing-prompts/index.htm
3. The Exercises and Advice section of About.com's Fiction section has a collection of prompts and other writing practice resources:
www.fictionwriting.about.com

An online search for "writing prompt" will generate pages of results. You can target your search based on your learner's writing level and interests.

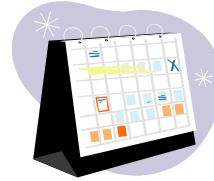
One reminder: The prompt is just a jumping off point. The writer need not stick to the topic (unless that is

part of the assignment) if inspiration flows in a different direction.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION WE NEED:

- Computer keyboards
- Laptop computer with internet capabilities
- Paperback books for the Elmwood Correctional Facility

Please call the Vision Literacy office at 408-262-1349.



BOOK MARK THE DATE!

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR SANDY REED, PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF VISION LITERACY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HER BROTHER, CHUCK REED, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE
Martin Luther King Library, 150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose

Fri., Aug. 15 – 2-4pm

All Vision Literacy volunteers, learners and staff are invited to join the Birthday Celebration. Please bring the gift of a Children's Book to donate to support families reading together.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS - TELL A FRIEND

Tell a friend or colleague who would like to share the gift of reading to please 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.

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

Morgan Hill Library, 660 West Main Ave.

Wed., Oct. 1 - 6:30-7:30pm

Gilroy Office, 42 Martin St.

Tue., Oct. 7 - 6:30-7:30pm

Gilroy Office, 42 Martin St.

Sat., Oct. 11 - 10:30-11:30am

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

