

LiteracyLinks

The Portland Literacy Council Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

Peggy L. Murphy, Editor

April 2012

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The Big Tutor Toolbox Edition

by Peggy L. Murphy, Editor

Tutor Conference feedback asked for resources: *Voilà!* LiteracyLinks presents you with a global classroom, an Easy Voters' Guide, citizenship resources, PLC website offerings, social services, and the Margaret Carter Skills Center. We will return to our regular format in May.

KhanAcademy global classroom

Self-described as a global classroom, the KhanAcademy is a 501 c(3) non-profit with a collection of over 3100 videos. It describes its collection as "everything from arithmetic to physics, finance, and history and hundreds of skills to practice. . ." Funders include Google and the Gates foundation.

This website is recommended by John Robb, who's tutored at Sylvania campus. He describes it as

"a great resource that allows students to learn and study at their own pace. I think tutoring sessions could have more impact if we were focusing on specific problem areas rather than lecture.

"For example, a student is assigned video sessions and some practice problems as homework. I would then go over the homework with the student in our tutoring session and answer any questions.

"The videos are very good, granular, and organized in a way that makes it easy to add to an existing knowledge base."

I viewed a few videos on the website, including some introductory arithmetic and telling time; these videos were fairly short and I think they'd be useful for students learning arithmetic. I watched for a few seconds before I realized that the black video screen was simulating a blackboard. While a little disconcerting not to see a human on the video, I began to think of it as the Invisible Teacher writing problems and solutions on the board.

The KhanAcademy has a wide array of videos, including sciences and humanities. Medical topics, for example, include diabetes and heart disease. The History section would be useful in a citizenship class. I think tutors will find this useful for tutoring and as life-long learners.

Thanks, John, for your input and sharing this great resource.

Easy Voters' Guide

The Oregon primary election is almost upon us (beware the Ides of May!).

The “Nonpartisan **Easy Voters' Guide** for the Oregon Primary Election May 15, 2012” is published by the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund.

This is an excellent resource about voting and voters' rights. The Guide covers candidates for federal and statewide offices. Candidates' unedited responses include the top three things they want to do if elected.

The 24-page guide is available in printed form at many libraries, elections offices, and the League of Women Voters office. It is printed in both English and Spanish. Audio and text versions are available on the web. An MP3 audio file is available online for listening or downloading.

USCIS.GOV – US Citizenship and Immigration Services

The USCIS website is huge. The “Citizenship Resource Center” includes links for students, teachers, and organizations. Each is packed with information.

“**Study for the English Test**” includes written, audio, and video formats. The English test study materials have been updated to allow listening practice and multiple-choice self-tests. Many written materials are in English and Spanish.

Of particular interest in the Teacher section are educational products, lesson plans and activities. An Organization section highlights funding resources.

Using **USCIS.GOV** requires a bit of practice and patience, and I find that it is time well-spent. Sometimes it's faster to access a particular page through a search engine. Using two popular search engines, I searched for **USCIS study for the English Test**, and found a direct link on the first page of both search results.

PortlandLiteracy.org

Just a gentle reminder to our readers, the Portland Literacy Council **website** has resource sections for tutors and students. Links are available to the following sites:

- Portland ESL Network Website/Wiki — ESL class map, materials for students and tutors
- GEDoregon — basic GED information
- Larry Ferlazzo English Website — tutoring materials
- Thinkfinity — online tutor training
- Tutor Help Center — tutoring materials and ideas
- Free ESL Flashcards — ESL learning materials
- USA Learns — basic learning and education
- Learn Free.Org — basic learning and education
- English Listening Language Lab Online — improve listening and speaking English
- LiveMocha — improve English skills
- US Dept. of Education — learn English
- ESL Packets for Students and Tutors

The PLC website also has back issues of Literacy Links; see the Tutor Toolbox columns for more resources.

Food Nook

Located on Cascade, Rock Creek, Southeast, and Sylvania campuses

Being hungry is a definite roadblock to effective learning. The **Food Nook** is a resource for hungry students needing prepared and canned food to get them by. With a PCC student ID or G number and photo ID, students may check out 1-3 days worth of food up to three times per term.

Rose City Resource

Street Roots publishes **Rose City Resource**, a comprehensive guide to public services and assistance programs for Multnomah and Washington counties. It's available online and as a printed booklet. Contents range from financial assistance, food assistance, medical and dental care, legal services, housing, utility assistance, veterans services, and youth services.

Margaret Carter Skill Center, PCC Cascade

The **Margaret Carter Skill Center** program is designed to improve job skills, explore interests in a trade or profession, boost academic skills for entry to associate degrees or certificate programs at PCC, or prepare to transfer to a 4-year university. It is open to anyone regardless of age. Orientations are scheduled each Tuesday and include an assessment of reading and math skills.

Located in the Technology Education Building at PCC Cascade, the Skill Center for 23 years has empowered students to be contributing citizens and productive employees. The program includes applied math, reading and writing, employment exploration, computers, industry orientation, and principles of technology, as well as Thought Patterns for Successful Careers. This is a flexible program that can be completed in one or more terms. Students currently pay fees of \$6.25 per credit (the program does not charge tuition).



**James Bowles & Lap Man Sin,
Margaret Carter Skill Center**

Margaret Carter Skill Center helps meet the needs of students who need space to come and go with the program. This flexibility is essential to helping students achieve success. Program instructors have wide ranges of work and life experiences, which enhance their credibility and empathy with students. Program staff includes the Center Director, James Bowles, five instructors, and intake and resource specialists.

As a tutor, I know that ABE and ESOL students may feel they have limited employment opportunities and choices. The modest cost of the Margaret Carter Skill Center makes it an affordable option to explore career options and increase employment skills. This program would be useful to anyone who wishes to explore their career options.

For Your Calendar

Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training

Registration Information (register by Email or telephone 971-722-6111 X3700)

- June 16th & 23rd, 9 am- 4 pm
PCC Sylvania Campus
12000 SW 49th, Portland

Opportunities

Multnomah County Library

MultCo Library GED Labs Orientation

Registration is required. Learn what and how to study for the GED. Find out if you are ready to test; if not, find out what kind of assistance is available. A GED test scholarship at Londer Center awaits those who complete the **GED Labs**.

- Kenton, Sat. May 12, 3 - 5 pm
- Rockwood, Sat., June 16, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm