

In This Issue

The Learning Edge

International Literacy Day

Training & Volunteer Opportunities

See You in September

Upcoming Events

International Literacy Day

September 7, 1-7 p.m., Multnomah County

Central Library, US Bank room

Reveiw: “The Learning Edge”

by Peggy L. Murphy

This month I looked at the Tutor Help Center and found a well-organized, expansive resource. This is the home of the Florida Literacy Coalition, and features links for ABE, GED, ESOL, and learning disabilities resources. (You can also access the Tutor Help Center through the PLC website Tutors page.)

The Florida Literacy website led me to “The Learning Edge ,” posted by the Wellington Learning Center in Arthur, Ontario, Canada.

“The Learning Edge” presents several sets of short articles on timeless topics, such as safely lifting heavy objects, eating your vegetables, and ethical dilemmas. Formatted as a newsletter, the site pairs audio and text, highlighting each segment of text as it is spoken. Comprehension and vocabulary quizzes accompany each article. Simple, useful graphics accompany some articles. One set of “The Learning Edge” could provide several hours of listening, reading, and writing practice for a learner.

Writing exercises pose typical ethical dilemmas. What would you do, for example, if a co-worker left work early and asked you to punch his or her timecard at quitting time? What if you found a \$50 bill on the floor or were offered a job at a company that was on strike? The writing exercises recommend a structured approach including how to organize a response, receiving and incorporating first draft feedback, and revising and seeking additional feedback on revisions. Recommendations include asking for help with spelling, grammar, and content.

As a tutor I liked the Wellington website because it uses active voice and clear writing along with audio. The graphics are relevant and help tell the story (and are not just the first available piece of clip art). Users can play, pause, replay, and print the text. The audio also gives learners the opportunity to hear another flavor of English from Canada. I found the instructions well-written; however, when taking one of the multiple choice quizzes, it took me a while to determine that an X meant wrong answer, while the emoticon :-) meant a correct answer. This was a minor distraction compared with the rich content on the site.

Editor’s Note: What’s a better alternative to finding on-line lesson plans than “Googling” and hoping for the best? Besides going to the PLC website Tutors page, you might find this useful: “Evaluating Websites,” posted by the University of North Carolina.

International Literacy Day is September 7

by Melissa Madenski, Multnomah County Library

Save the date! Multnomah County Library will host "Literacy is Power" a celebration in honor of International Literacy Day, 2011. Representatives from colleges, non-profit and community-based organizations in Multnomah County will be on hand. For adults pursuing citizenship, GED certificates, English language learning and reading improvement, the celebration is a perfect opportunity to come and have all the experts in one room. An end-of-the-day celebration will include finger food from Chai Yo Restaurant and performances by Colored Pencils Art & Culture Council.

Look for more details in August or contact Melissa Madenski (melissam@multcolib.org), phone 503-988-6318.

Editor's Note: This event is especially suitable for tutors.

Training and Volunteer Opportunities

Tutor Training

The 2011-12 tutor training schedule is hot off the presses and posted on the PLC website. The following six sessions are scheduled throughout the Portland metro area.

- * September 24 & October 1 - PCC Sylvania
- * November 12 & 19 - PCC Cascade
- * January 21 & 28 - CCC Harmony Campus
- * February 25 & March 3 - PCC Willow Creek
- * April 7 & 14 - PCC Southeast Center
- * June 16 & 23 - PCC Sylvania

Workshop prices are still a very modest \$20 for tutors volunteering with sponsors or partners; \$50 otherwise. Tell a friend!

Additional Tutoring Opportunities

[Portland Literacy Council Tutor page](#)

See You in September

The PLC Board operates on full power from September to June, with less activity during the summer, and thus, this abbreviated issue of Literacy Links. We'll see you in September with a Community Grant announcement, more tutoring news, and a new look.

Stay tuned!