

LiteracyLinks

Quarterly Newsletter - March 2025



Portland LITERACY Council

What we're covering this quarter:

- Upcoming: March 22, 2025 Tutor Conference
- Foundational Literacy Spotlight
- Board Member Hydn Park's Literacy Corner
- The Oregonian's 2024 Season of Sharing Campaign Success
- Fred Meyer Rewards: How to Make PLC Your Designated Charity
- Upcoming Tutor Training

Please join us for the 2025 Volunteer Conference



Portland Literacy Council has proudly committed to fostering literacy and community engagement since 1993, and this year's annual Tutor Conference - Equity Through Literacy - is set to be a transformative event! Scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at the Portland Community College Rock Creek campus, attendees will benefit from an inspiring lineup of 12 workshops that cover a range of topics, from engaging homework ideas to discussions on the importance of diversity. With roundtable discussions and student panels designed to inspire and motivate, this conference is an excellent opportunity to deepen your understanding and skills in literacy education. Join us as we work together to promote equity and enrich our community through literacy!

[Register Now!](#)



Foundational Literacy Spotlight: Update

Portland Literacy's Foundational Literacy Tutoring Program is up and running. We began matching tutors and learners in late December and tutors began working with individuals in late January. Four tutors are currently working with adult learners ranging in age from 19 – 62 years. Two of our learners have past experience with the Orton-Gillingham approach to reading instruction, while two others did not.

The long-term goal of the foundational literacy tutoring program is to build a group of specialized tutors to help pre-literate/low-literacy native-English speakers improve their literacy skills. Volunteers received an accelerated course on the elements of reading, building from individual letters to the sounds the letters represent, blending sounds into words, and segmenting words into sentences and paragraphs.



Ten volunteers participated in 21.5 hours of training, including 17.5 hours of literacy skills training, and four hours of workshops on working with adult learners and learning about trauma-informed practices.

Tangela Purdom and David Roth, local supporters of arts and education are funding this pilot project and will provide additional funding to train more volunteer tutors. Our efforts are also supported by the Language and Literacy Fund, who provided our training and assessments of participants' literacy skills, and who acted as a sounding board for PLC programs and tutors. The Blosser Center for Dyslexia Resources has also assisted our efforts.

While still in its infancy, we believe there is a strong need for teaching foundational literacy skills to adults and we are looking forward to serving more learners in the

Board Member Hydn Park's Literacy Corner



PLC is proud to present a new corner in our newsletter where we will share one fun fact about literacy as well as one recommendation that highlights literacy all across the globe. We hope these nuggets will contribute to our growing understanding of different cultures and communities as shaped by language.

Invention of Hangul, the Korean Script

It's weird to think about a script being "invented," but that's exactly what happened with Hangul. Koreans had historically used the Chinese script, which many of us know is difficult and time consuming to master. This meant that only wealthy men were literate in the past.

King Sejong was, and still is, widely beloved for his love of scientific progress, generosity, and passion for education. Despite his advisors' protests, he allowed the children of commoners to attend school.

Sejong knew that knowledge passes through the written word. He set to work on improving literacy rates of everyone in his kingdom, no matter their class. Historians suggest that he may have spent anywhere from two to seven years working on the invention of a phonetic script, all in secret except for his team of scientific advisors.

In 1446, King Sejong published a book introducing Hangul to his people. Although there was no systemic literacy tracking at the time, historical accounts suggest that Hangul significantly improved literacy rates among commoners, an impressive feat to achieve in the 15th century.

Sentenced (2023)

Produced and narrated by Steph Curry (yes, that one), "Sentenced" follows four adults who never learned to read, highlighting how illiteracy affects individuals and their families across multiple generations. This powerful documentary reminds us of the importance of early childhood literacy efforts and inspires us to take action, a must-watch for those who believe in the power of education and change. Available for streaming on Peacock, 69 minutes.

The Oregonian's 2024 Season of Sharing Campaign Success



Portland Literacy Council was honored to be selected for inclusion in the 2024 Season of Sharing in The Oregonian and on OregonLive. With the exposure, many more people learned about adult literacy needs in Oregon and what we do. We are very grateful for everyone who subscribed to this newsletter, signed up for tutor training, and donated as a result. The photo is PLC President Cheryl Thoen with Therese Bottomly, editor and vice president of content of The Oregonian/OregonLive.

Fred Meyer Rewards: How to Make PLC Your Designated Charity

Wondering how to make Portland Literacy Council your designated charity while shopping at Fred Meyers? Well wonder no more. Click here for more information:

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/o/store-services/community-rewards/fredmeyer>

Upcoming Tutor Training

Date	Course Title	Instructor
April 26 & May 3, 2025 9:00am-2:30pm	Basic Tutor Training In-person PCC Sylvania	Sarah Bauer
May	Trauma Informed Practices	Jamie Heberlein
May	GED Topic	Colleen Latimer
May	Tutor Conversation (free connection event)	Heidi Dryden
June	AI-Magic School Bus - Chat GPT for ESL	Zach Patrick-Riley
September	Adult Ed / GED	Colleen Latimer
September	Tutor Conversation (free connection event)	Heidi Dryden
October	Tutoring a real student on Zoom	Patrick McDade

Thank you for being a part of the Portland Literacy Council network. We will return next quarter with another update. In the meantime, follow us and stay in touch via social media! We are on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram (@portlandliteracy).

Portland Literacy Council
Portlandliteracy.org



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