

# SEPT. VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

## Teton Literacy Center

1715 High School Rd. Jackson, WY 83002

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Find us on



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NEW VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm**

**October 11<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:30pm**

TLC needs more tutors! Do you know someone else who would make a great tutor or volunteer? Encourage them to sign up for one of our new volunteer trainings. Our current volunteers are so important in recruiting new tutors! Remind them that no experience needed.

#### LEVEL 2 VOLUNTEER TRAINING

**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, TLC**

This year's returning tutor training, designed to help you take your volunteer sessions to the next level.

#### TUTOR TEA

**Wednesday, October 12, 1pm**

Meet TLC staff and volunteers for our 1<sup>st</sup> tutor tea of the year. Bring your own ideas and questions. This is a great opportunity to brainstorm with staff and peers. Location TBA.

#### JACKSON'S GOT TALENT

**Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>**

Join us at Pink Garter for the most talented fundraiser of the year!

Dear Volunteers,

Our fall programs have started, and we look forward to having you involved again this school year! Thank you for offering your time- TLC couldn't do this important work without you. We are excited to offer a monthly newsletter this year. Newsletters will focus on helpful tips to increase literacy and learning in your volunteer sessions with students, as well as updates on what is happening at TLC and in the community. Is there a topic you have been wondering about? Email us! If we don't have the answer, we are happy to find resources to help.

Sincerely,

TLC Staff

### START YOUR SCHOOL YEAR OFF RIGHT!

#### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

As educators, we recognize the importance of relationship-building and the tone we set in the first sessions of the school year. TLC staff set aside time during our first sessions teaching to get to know our students, and we encourage you to do the same. During the first few weeks, the lesson plans we write for tutors will integrate literacy into get-to-know-you activities, or activities to help you reconnect if you are returning with the same student. Feel good about taking the time for these activities. Investing in this time will reap benefits later in the school year as you support your students to tackle more challenging activities.

#### ESTABLISHING GROUND RULES TO SET A POSITIVE TONE

Teachers and TLC staff also take time the first couple weeks to establish rules and expectations with our students. We encourage you to take 5-10 minutes to brainstorm these with your student as well. Being on the same page about rules and expectations helps your student know what to expect. Doing so early on can help maintain a positive atmosphere

throughout the school year. It also gives you a tangible list to come back to when any behavior or management issues arise. Some tips to help you come up with this list with your student:

- Keep it short. 5 minutes is usually plenty of time in a 1-1 setting.
- Have your student do the brainstorming with you. They know rules from school, home, and other clubs that they can contribute.
- A list of 'don't's' is overwhelming. Whenever possible, restate any negative statements your student offers into positive ones. For example, "Use inside voices" instead of "Don't yell," or "Walk in the hallway" instead of "Don't run."
- If you know that your student has just come up with a similar list of rules and expectations, either at school or for a TLC club, you can simply use that list and review it together.
- Record what you two come up with and keep it in your tutoring box. It can be a very useful tool to refer back to.
- Record on a colorful piece of paper or a cut-out shape of the student's choosing (ie: soccer ball, dinosaur, etc).

Keep this positive, informal and brief, as students have likely done this a number of times already this month. Usually my phrasing sounds something like "I want us to make sure our meetings together go great. What kinds of rules/expectations do we need so that these sessions are fun and useful for everyone? How do we need to act?"

Common rules and expectations are important to have and can give a leg-up in addressing any behavior issues that might come up later on. I like to revisit this list over the coming weeks when things are positive to ask: "What are 1-2 things we are doing well from this list? What can we do a better job at? Is there anything missing?" TLC staff is always here to help brainstorm. Let us know how we can help.

## CALL FOR TALENT

We are excited that the 2016 Jackson's Got Talent event on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Pink Garter Theater is benefiting TLC Tutoring, Enrichment and Family Literacy programs! Do any of your friends or family have a talent they want to share? Want to audition? Record a video of you, your child or your whole family performing your talent and upload it to the Jackson's Got Talent Website [www.jacksonsgottalent.org](http://www.jacksonsgottalent.org) . **Deadline for submissions is Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Don't have a talent but want to join the fun? Tickets are on sale at [Jacksonsgottalent.org](http://Jacksonsgottalent.org)



## MEET KATIE ATHERLY

### AMERICORPS INTERN

Katie hails from small-town Montana where she grew up exploring and dancing through the Beartooth Mountains. While earning her degree in environmental studies at the University of Montana, she discovered the exciting world of project-based learning and experiential education. She is super excited to spend her fall with TLC and to get to know the Jackson community! Katie will be teaching clubs and Lit Lab preschool.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

### WREN BUCHENROTH

We have really enjoyed having Wren as a volunteer! Wren served as a high school intern this summer, supporting literacy camps for students grades K-8. We appreciate his energy and enthusiasm, and his efforts to make activities fun. Thanks to Wren for his positive attitude and his time helping TLC students this summer!

