

Clatsop Community College Volunteer Literacy Tutor News

Volume 5, Issue 5

November 2014

Beyond Basics Computing in Spanish begins Monday, November 3, here at CCC. Does your student need information about this? The cost is \$75 and it is held Monday nights from 6:30-8:30. Call me for more info.

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY:

A TUTOR TO ASSIST 2 CHINESE-SPEAKERS TO RAISE THEIR READING LEVELS TO ENTER COLLEGE CLASSES.

These students are newly-arrived from China and are working diligently to improve their English. They would benefit greatly from one-on-one tutoring to improve their reading. They understand a lot of spoken English and can communicate when speaking. Meet here at the college during the afternoon or late mornings. The tutor would work with the pair at the same time.

New Website for Free Reading Materials

<https://newsela.com/>

This site has readings reflecting **current news events**. The best aspect about this site is that each reading can be accessed at **4 different reading levels**- from 4th to about 8th grade. I had to sign in as a teacher from the college so I'm not sure if volunteer tutors can get full access. Check it out or come to the office and we can do so through my account. I can certainly prepare packets for you and there is a way for students themselves to make an account. The readings are interesting and cover a wide variety of topics.

WELCOME NEW TUTORS



New Tutors:
Joss Ayers-Sims
AnaLuisa Morales
Thank you!



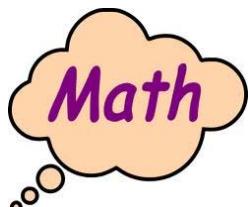
WE HAVE A NEW ESL CLASS!

- When:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 AM
- Where:** In the **new literacy office** at the main campus
- Why:** 2 reasons- expanded space and a volunteer, Laura, willing and able to conduct a class.
- Who:** Students in **high beginning/low intermediate** levels

If you have a student who may be interested, please send them to me. If they are new they need to do an intake and a test.



Keys to Language/Math Learning



Recently, two tutors joined us who are tutoring in math. Here's a tip to help students better understand and retain what they are studying.

Students should memorize facts in a way that forms a verbal chain.

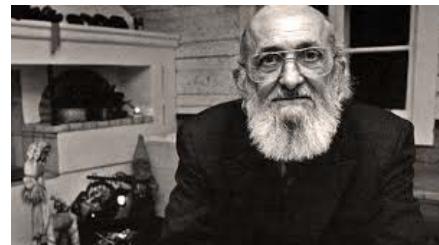
Students should always practice by saying the whole problem and answer aloud. After all, equations and operations are a translation from traditional language into mathematical terminology. By verbalizing calculations and equations students memorize a "verbal chain." The GED tests (and beyond tests into real-life solutions) are word problems that require students to translate them into mathematical formulas. If you like, I have lists of words that direct students to particular operations.

And. . . if any of the math or language tutors would like to send along hints or write a blurb or two in the next newsletter, let me know!

Another word about **Skype**: this program also carries the ability to instant message while you are talking. This is basically **texting and talking at the same time**. The tutor who uses it with his student here also uses it with his Spanish-language tutor in Mexico. Sometimes seeing what you are saying and receiving instant correction can be helpful. Let me know if you have the technology to do this and want to implement it with your student.

"Education must begin with the solution of the student-teacher contradiction, by reconciling the poles of the contradiction so that both are simultaneously teachers and students."

Paulo Freire



Paolo Freire (1921—1997)

Paolo Freire is considered one of the most influential thinkers and practitioners of **popular** and informal education in the 20th century. **Popular education** includes educational programs grounded in notions of class, political struggle, and social transformation. (Popular here means 'of the people.') Popular educational activities are usually performed outside the traditional educational system and are designed to educate and empower people who lack formal educations and come from intergenerational poverty. Improved literacy is considered a primary component of popular education.

Born in Recife, Brazil, one of the poorest regions in the country, he taught Portuguese in secondary schools before becoming active in adult education. In 1946, Freire was appointed Director of the Department of Education and Culture of the Social Service in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil. Working primarily among the illiterate poor, Freire began to "embrace a non-orthodox form of what could be considered liberation theology." His work in literacy education was seen as a threat to social order and he was jailed for over two months and then forced into exile for 15 years following a military coup in 1964. In 1979, he was invited back to Brazil and eventually became Minister of Education for Sao Paulo.

Freire's work has an impact on how we conduct adult literacy services here at CCC. His idea that students have as much to contribute to the process as the instructors, and that instructors must be willing to change and adapt to the input of the students are key tenets of volunteer literacy instruction. We embrace dialog with our students versus an imposed teacher-centered agenda/curriculum. We strive to implement the idea that improved literacy enables our students to improve their lives through self-advocacy, particularly in the workplace, with landlords and with their children's teachers and school administrators. The CCC library has some of Freire's writings on the shelves if you are interested looking more into his work.

