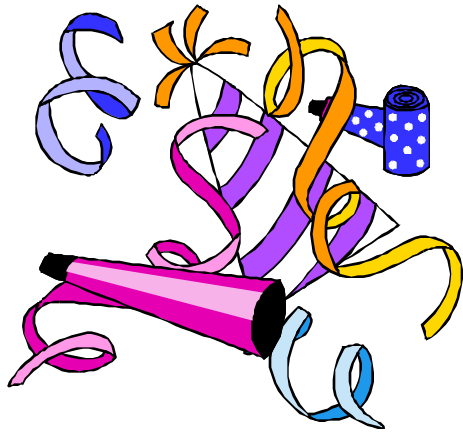


news



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Happy New Year!

*A Message from the Director
Richard A. Peterson*

“Reading Health”

Reading and health go together. In recent years the relationship has become the subject of serious research, and the findings are quite clear: for Americans who do not read well, their health suffers. In a community like Cleveland, where illiteracy rates are high, the threat to public health is as serious as any communicable disease.

*Project: LEARN and Cleveland’s Department of Public Health have joined in partnership to advance the understanding of health issues. **Reading Health** will build upon current research and best practices in health literacy to develop better ways to inform residents about the health issues that matter to them. **Reading Health** will combine the respective expertise of the Department and Project LEARN to develop new ways to communicate important health information.*

*With grants from the St. Luke’s Foundation and Abington Foundation Project LEARN will implement **Reading Health** in 2004 and we expect this effort will be a national model for other public health departments and local library programs. Specifically **Reading Health** will develop easy –to – read materials on health issues and health curriculums for adult new readers. Look for updates on this exciting project in the coming year.*

*Tutor Tips
by Barbara Watson*

WHAT'S UP FOR 2004!

Late October 2003 I received a special mailing from ProLiteracy (formerly Laubach Literacy Action) on Learning Disabilities and Legal Issues. The purpose of this mailing was to give adult literacy programs such as Project: LEARN updated information on serving Learning Disabled adults. It's interesting that this information came to us at this particular time as our teaching staff had already begun discussion on how to better serve the needs of our learning disabled students.

At one time Project: LEARN was referring students with special needs to programs that were better equipped to serve that population of adults. Now with all of the budget cuts these specialized programs are ceasing to exist. And if by chance we stumble upon one the cost is so great that the average students in programs like this are unable to afford the cost.



So, in our never-ending attempt to serve our students better I signed up for a workshop called **Learning Disabilities: Training for Administrators**, which was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

On December 1st I received an e-mail from ODE regarding this workshop. Along with the e-mail came four (4) attachments, which had to be downloaded and printed out. Each attachment contained 125 to 175 pages. I had 24 hours to read the first 300+ pages and answer ten essay type questions in order to be prepared for the workshop on December 3rd.

Well, with the help of our very adept and multi-talented education director, Robert Bivins, all of the information was printed out and I managed to get the necessary reading and pre-workshop assignment done. On December 3rd I was as prepared as I could be to consume as much information as my little brain could handle. And, just to let you know, it was a **lot** of information to digest and process. I did walk away with a 3-inch/3 ring binder of very good information **plus** the information that was downloaded.

Although I'm still reading through all of the material and trying to digest it all I'm cautiously excited about this "new" venture.

I put the word "new" in quotes because through the history of Project: LEARN we have always tried to provide service to this special population. We've done it by trail and error; by research on our own and accepting any free help we could get from specialists in the field like Sarah Littlefield. But this year (2004) Project: LEARN plans to put extensive time and resources into learning all we can about Learning Disabilities screening and diagnostic

testing, accommodations and teaching methods.

As we delve more into this highly specialized area we will keep you updated on our progress. And since our Executive Director, Richard Peterson, has designated me as Project: LEARN's on staff Learning Disabilities "Specialist" keep me and Project: LEARN in your prayers.

So, until next time let me say "Thank You" to all of you for what you do for your students. Project: LEARN would not be the program that it is without all of you and the time and effort that you give. Until next time...

HAPPY TUTORING

Some Things Old, Some Things New

This year, 2004 will be a very busy year for students and staff at Project LEARN. Already group school classes are growing and students

are making progress towards their goals. The time that teachers meet every three months to talk with students about their progress and work has helped make the learning more personalized to the student's needs.

The first Life Skills Class was a great success. The attendance was good and everyone got new and helpful information. Students with tutors and students from Group School had a lot to say. Tiffany Butler the teacher also had a lot to share, both materials and treats. I think this Life Skills program can be a very special part of our service to students. It can be used to talk about special needs and topics that students want to hear about. There will also be lessons on things that help them in their daily lives. Students and tutors should tell us what kinds of Life Skill classes they would be interested in seeing.

A new year is a time to bring the best from the old year while starting new ways for the future. I am excited about where we are going. How about you?

Robert Bivins

Wish for the New Year!

May your New Year be a time of peace, joy and serenity!

May each day bring you closer and more loving to family,
friends and others!

May each week see you advancing in the practice of
faith, hope and charity!

May each month give to you the aid, comfort and
strength you need from God!

May the march of seasons make you appreciate and be
grateful for all the good things you enjoy!

May the end of the New Year find you happier
and healthier than you have ever been!

Have a blessed and prosperous
New Year!

From the Staff of

Project: LEARN