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Transforming Lives, One Person, One Family, One Job & One Community at a Time.

The Chalkboard

A monthly update brought to you by Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley

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May 2014

From the Desk of...

MaryJo VanGompel
Executive Director



Next week we will be recognizing students and tutors at our "Celebration of the Stars" ceremony. The theme for the celebration and the writing project this year is "Happiness". Greek philosopher Aristotle said, "Happiness depends upon ourselves". As I was putting together the movie for the event and reading the stories written by our students, I started to think about all the little things in life that make me happy:

- Watching a green stem emerge from the dirt after the long winter,
- Taking a walk with my dog in the woods,



Wish List:

Literacy Volunteers
Chippewa Valley has a
wishlist on
Amazon.com.



- Sitting on my deck, drinking a cup of coffee and reading a book,
- Spending time with my family,
- Taking a boat ride up the Chippewa River,
- Playing a board game with my friends Nathan & Connie on a Saturday night,
- Roasting a marshmallow over a campfire in our back yard,
- Buying flowers at the Farmer's Market,
- Seeing the smiles on the faces of our students, tutors and staff, and
- Hearing of their successes, large or small.

Too often we get caught up in the busyness of our day to day lives. Take a moment today to ask yourself, what makes me happy?

I am grateful for you and all you do to help us and our students.

Are You Attending Celebration of the Stars?

It's time to celebrate the stars of literacy! You are invited to attend the Celebration of the Stars as Literacy Volunteers – Chippewa Valley celebrates the achievements of our students and recognizes our tutors for their valuable service. The Eric J. Wahl Award will be presented and students will read from the 2014 Celebrate Writing project. We will have door prizes and a free lunch. Childcare services are available.

This event will be held Tuesday, May 20, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Lake Street United Methodist Church, 337 Lake Street, Eau Claire. There are only a few spaces left so sign up today! Either call 715-834-0222 or [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#).

World Book Night

On April 23, 2014, in celebration of [World Book Night](#), the students, tutors and staff at Family Literacy participated in our second



annual poetry reading. This year we read from the book *One Hundred Best Loved Poems*. Students were matched into multi-level groups and assigned a poem to read to the rest of the students. It was very scary and difficult for our students to stand in front of their peers and read, but everyone was successful!!



Books that LVCV received were also distributed at the Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn County jails. The attached photo shows a few of the students at the Dunn County Jail that got the book [Young Men and Fire](#) by Norman Maclean.

SCRABBLE BEE a Buzzing Success!

The 13th Annual Scrabble Bee that was held on Thursday, April 24th was a huge success! To view photos of the event, a listing of sponsors and donors, final scores and team rankings, and watch our Scrabble Bee movie, go to our [Scrabble Bee page](#). Thank you everyone who was a sponsor, participant or a volunteer.

Work Study Students Special News

Congratulations to our Chippewa Valley Technical College Work Study student Maichoua on the birth of her new baby boy Jasper Pa'eh Johnson on April 29, 2014. Jasper was 8 lbs. 1 oz. and 19 inches long. As you can see in the photo, Mom and baby are doing fine.



And if this wasn't exciting enough, on May 9th, Maichoua joined her classmates in graduating from CVTC. We are very proud of Maichoua on achieving this major accomplishment so soon after her baby was born!

On April 22-29, eight CVTC marketing students attended the national competition in Washington, DC. There, students competed against 1,500 students from 30 other states, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Canada. LVCV Work Study student Dustin Steinbrecher was one of these students and finished as one of the Sales Meeting Top 10 Finalists in the Nation. Congratulations to Dustin for this outstanding achievement AND for joining Maichoua in graduating from CVTC.

Congratulations Toby Bell!

Toby Bell, an LVCV student, has been awarded Forklift Certification. He studied with tutor Lloyd Shepherd to learn machine parts, safety principles, and pass a forklift test before getting driving



instruction. Driving instruction was made possible through our partnership with Career Development Center and their trainer Eric Giardina. Congratulations Toby!

GED Staff and Tutor Training

LVCV staff has been busy prepping themselves and students for the newly designed 2014 GED tests.



Laura Reisinger, Louise Bentley, Deb Erwin, Claudia

Manning and Linda Bolgren attended the State ABE/ELL Conference April 3-4, 2014. Presenters were from GED Testing Service and gave in-depth instruction on the Math and Science tests.

Additionally, Laura, Louise, and Claudia attended the Correctional Educational Conference (CEA) May 5th, where they gained knowledge at various sessions on materials available for GED instruction. Staff shared their knowledge in a series of four Tutor Seminars on Reasoning through Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. Over 20 tutors and staff were

able to practice test taking on the LVCV computers.

Resources Available for Tutors

Are you a tutor looking for additional resources for your students? Check the LVCV office for a variety of materials.

There are also a few good website to peruse for good tutor information: Try [ProLiteracy Notebook Spring 2014](#) or [Wisconsin Literacy Tutor Toolkit](#) (email lbentley@lvcv.org for the Tutor Toolkit Login).

Volunteer Expo Debuts

Literacy Volunteers participated in the debut of the community's Volunteer Expo on April 15th at the Hobbs Ice Arena, Eau Claire. The event was put on by the Chippewa Valley Volunteer Coordinators Association. We were one of 30-some agencies who participated. A dozen interested individuals asked questions, saw materials, and signed up as potential new tutors. Thank you, Chippewa Valley!

Eau Claire Open Learning Center

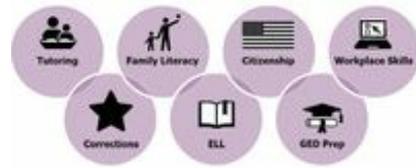
Did you know that the Open Learning Center in Eau Claire provides free and confidential literacy services to anyone? The Center is open on Tuesdays 4-8 p.m. and Thursdays 9-Noon. Experienced staff are available to help students to prepare for a GED, improve typing skills, learn to read better, practice English conversation, increase math skills, work on a resume, and other literacy services. Stop by soon.

Offices Closed for Memorial Day

The LVCV offices in Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn counties will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014 for the Memorial Day holiday. Enjoy the day!

Need Help?

We have a variety of programs to help you acquire the necessary skills to achieve economic self-sufficiency. [Click Here](#) to see services that we provide.



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