

LEARN

Alive!

Libraries Empower All to Read Now

Adult Literacy Program

Phone: (888) 466 - 0668

Email: learnstaff@sdcounty.ca.gov

October/November 08

IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICE

The ESL Café at the library has helped me a lot.



Gladis Henriquez

My name is Gladis Henriquez. I'm married and I have three children. My mother and two sisters live in New Zealand. One sister lives in El Salvador where I was born. My country is little, but it is beautiful. I love my country. I have 12 years in the United States; I am happy because in November I will go vote for the new president for the first time. I immigrated in 1996. I remember we arrived and nobody in my family spoke English.

Now, I think many people helped me learn the little that I know of English. The ESL Café at the library has helped me a lot. Jason, Hector, Marti, MaryAlice, and LucyGrace are special people because ever since I am meeting with them I speak a little more English. I think that it will be good if we could meet at least

four times a month. I know that God will reward them for the excellent help that they offer. I also want to mention another very special person for me. My teacher, Olson, always used to tell me "Gladis, think in English, eat in English, get up and take a shower in only English – Just remember you can!"

Education must provide the opportunities for self-fulfillment; it can at best provide a rich and challenging environment for the individual to explore, in his own way.

- Noam Chomsky

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Tutor Trainings**
 - *Vista (1st and 2nd part together)*
November 15 (10:00am-4:00pm)
- **Learner/Tutor Time (6:00pm-7:00pm)**
 - *El Cajon*
October 29, November 18
 - *Vista*
November 5, December 4
- **ESL Café**
 - *El Cajon (12:00pm-1:30pm)*
November 7 and 21
December 5 and 19
 - *Vista (10:30am-12:00pm)*
October 22
November 12 and 26
December 10
 - *Lincoln Acres (6:30pm-7:30pm)*
October 21 and 28
November 18 and 25
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 - *Bonita (3:00pm-4:30pm)*
November 14
December 12

MCDONALD'S FAMILY LITERACY NIGHTS

In an effort to promote literacy at the family level, the San Diego Council on Literacy in participation with McDonald's has recruited several literacy centers to hold Family Literacy Nights at different McDonald's loca-

tions in San Diego County. The five week program, which we have scheduled for Thursday nights, includes a meal, story time, a short lesson, a craft, and a free book. Space is limited to 15 families, so parents must call to reserve a spot. The program will occur three times a year, so different families will have a chance to participate each time.

Our first event began on Thursday, October 9th, and it was a great success. We had 55 people join us for a meal and dessert. After they finished eating, we read a wonderful story about Curious George and his adventures in the snow. We then taught a small lesson about snow for the families. Many people had been to the mountains and seen snow or even had played in it, but there were a few that had never. After all the children



and parents put on their imaginary winter clothes, the group began making a snowy winter picture frame to take home. All of the families and our staff had a wonderful time at McDonald's. Each family left with a book in hand to read later that evening.

Would you like to join us at the next session of McDonald's Family Literacy Nights? We will be taking reservations in January, so leave yourself a reminder to call L.E.A.R.N. at 1-888-466-0668 and reserve your family's spot.



For article submissions, please contact Jason Romano at
jason.romano@sdcountry.ca.gov or (760) 643-5144

TAKE ADVANTAGE!

Tutor/Learner Time

If you're a tutor or learner, where do you go to share your ideas, stories, knowledge, or expertise with like-minded individuals? One idea is to attend Tutor Time and Learner Time! What are Tutor Time and Learner Time, you say?

Tutor Time is LEARN's monthly tutor gathering where tutors meet and discuss various aspects of tutoring, such as teaching strategies or useful materials. Learner Time is LEARN's other monthly gathering where learners have the opportunity to discuss their progress and share their experiences with other learners. Not only will you be able to share and connect with others, but you can take advantage of the light refreshments. Now you have no excuse not to come!

A STEP FORWARD FOR DYSLEXIA

From the 4th to the 16th of August, I had the privilege of attending a seminar on the Orton-Gillingham Approach for teaching reading and writing to people with dyslexia. Ann Beatty, from the Michigan Dyslexia Institute, skillfully presented lectures on dyslexia and various linguistics topics before introducing us to the multi-sensory approach. For the practicum part of the seminar, we had the opportunity to put into practice all that we had learned during the first four day-long lectures. We were responsible for preparing lesson plans for daily one-hour tutoring sessions with a dyslexic student. Be-

sides observing one another's tutoring sessions, we were coached and given feedback by two expert Orton-Gillingham tutors. I feel that as a result of this experience my student made significant progress while I learned a new skill. I plan on further developing this skill by tutoring a learner in our program. Subsequently, I will be putting together a special training for tutors working with a learner affected by dyslexia. My hope is that I will take what I have learned in this seminar and incorporate it into our program in order to more effectively serve our communities.

Library Associate – Hector Ortega

READING FOR THE RECORD

"Read for the Record" was an exciting event that took place on October 2nd at two library branches: El Cajon and Encinitas. It was a wonderful way for L.E.A.R.N. to help Jumpstart, a national nonprofit organization, promote early childhood literacy. Jumpstart's campaign has spread the importance of reading and family literacy across the country since 1993! This year they pro-

jected that 400,000 children would participate in helping to break the record of reading the same book, Don Freeman's "Corduroy," on the same day.

In El Cajon, a trail of bear paws led 18 children to the children's area for a special story time. Kevin Vigil, who orchestrated both events, was the master of ceremonies for the night. He began the afternoon by asking the children to explain what a world record is. The children were then informed that they were going to participate in breaking a world record by reading Corduroy together. Miko Osada, Youth Librarian for the El Cajon Branch, kick started the reading by keeping the children entertained with song. Erica Abbey, AmeriCorps Member for L.E.A.R.N., read the acclaimed book while the children listened intently and snuggled their teddy bears. The children were given their very own copy of the book and followed along as Erica read. A short time later L.E.A.R.N. student worker, Rocio Carrillo, read Corduroy in

Spanish to another group of children. All participating children, along with their families, worked on different crafts: creating puppets and drawing pictures of Corduroy.

L.E.A.R.N. and the staff of the El Cajon Branch Library created an unforgettable experience for many young patrons and their families.

The Encinitas event, organized with the help of the Youth Librarian, Patricia Williams, started off in a similar fashion with Jason Romano explaining to the children how they were going to break a world record. The special guest of the afternoon was Joe Bunn, the Fire Division Chief for the City of Encinitas. Joe donated time out of his busy schedule to share this special book with the children. Nancy SaintJohn, Public



Joe Bunn, Fire Division Chief, reading the acclaimed "Corduroy" to a captivated audience.

Information Officer, then entertained the children with guitar in hand singing songs and telling amusing stories. It was an exciting performance that kept the children engaged by having them wear funny hats and shake a variety of musical instruments. Afterwards, Margo Smart, Regional Youth Services Librarian, with Patricia by her side, helped the children decorate their very own bookmark for their copy of "Corduroy." It was an entertaining time that was concluded with a friendly game of Bingo.



*Front: Kevin Vigil
Back from Left to Right: Erica Abbey,
Rocio Carrillo, Miko Osada*