

LAWYERS for literacy

Helping Children Read to Succeed



2013-14
Newsletter

Banner Year Starts with October 3 Kickoff Event



Bill Foster

Mayor of St. Petersburg

Lawyers for Literacy (LFL)
tutors along with donors

14 Participating LFL Elementary Schools

- **St Petersburg**
Campbell Park
Gulfport
Jamerson
New Heights
Northwest
Sanderlin
Woodlawn
- **Clearwater**
Belleair
High Point
- **Tampa**
Channelside
Dunbar
Macfarlane
Rampello
Roland Park

and school leaders will gather for the group's annual kickoff the evening of October 3 at the home of Founder and President Lucas Fleming and his wife Tara Fleming.

St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster who is also an attorney will be on hand to wish the group well on the start of their 11th year of tutoring public school children in reading.

Foster will also share thoughts about the importance of literacy to the community that have come from his years of advocating for excellence in education including his new initiative, St. Pete's Promise, which brings The City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas

County Schools and others together in support of improvement in local education.

The event also will give the opportunity to recognize Christine Derr, CeCe Ingle, Nancy Harris and Barbara Pritchett for five years of tutoring with LFL.

St. Petersburg's Campbell Park, Jamerson and Sanderlin elementary schools will receive five year awards for serving as host schools.

School sponsors for 2014 and corporate sponsor **LexisNexis** will be recognized.

The Lawyers for Literacy event marks the start of a three month search for

additional tutors to assist in 14 Pinellas and Hillsborough elementary schools beginning in January and carrying through to early April.

Funds also are being sought to purchase the needed books, reading improvement materials, and supplies used by what is expected to be 150 students this school year. ■



Tutor Adriana Paris with Rampello School student Michala in Tampa.

LFL Students Advance: Tutoring Made

94% of Students Tutored Promoted to 4th Grade

Statistics show that students who may not have advanced to 4th grade because of low reading skills benefited from LFL tutor assistance.

94% of students tutored last school year improved and were promoted. Tutors and their third grade students focused on preparing for the reading portion of the required Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

Tutoring took place once a week over three months in advance of the FCAT which, for third graders, is the first time they are faced with a single test that largely determines whether they will be promoted to fourth grade. ■

Donations Make It Possible

Each year donations allow LFL to continue to answer calls for assistance from elementary schools served previously and make it possible to consider serving additional schools.

LFL tutors worked with 120 students at 11 schools in the spring of 2013. An estimated 150 student-tutor pairs will be in action starting in January 2014 at 14 schools assuming necessary funds can be found.

Books at five elementary schools are thus far sponsored by: **Peter & Marion Fleming, Jeanette Secor, Scott Wagman & Beth Houghton, Bill Weller & Cynthia Smoot-Weller and the Walmart Neighborhood Market in Largo, FL.**

School sponsors are being sought for the remaining schools.

First time support has come from **Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Charities** as part of their Community Outreach Division headed by Major Sankar Montoute.

Key contributions for the 2014 tutoring season have been received from the **St. Petersburg Bar**

Foundation and corporate sponsor **LexisNexis**.

Much appreciated also is support coming for the first time from the St. Petersburg chapters of the **Kiwanis** and **Rotary** community service organizations.

Sustaining contributions by **Lucas Fleming** and **The Fleming Law Group** have again provided the staffing of the LFL office.

Support donations toward the coming tutoring year have already been received from **Tectao Design Group, Runelle Bowman, Tara Fleming, Carla Turner-Hahn, Atticus, Inc., and Barbara Marshall.**

LFL is a federal and state recognized charity. Donations are used to purchase books, materials and supplies used by students and their tutors.

Individual donations of any amount are also greatly appreciated.

Donations of \$150 enable LFL to bring the program to a child providing a personal tutor, reading improvement materials, and a starter library of high interest books the student gets to keep. ■

Significant portions of the LFL program are made possible by contributions from the following organizations:



St. Petersburg Bar Foundation Past President Gregg Hoag (c) presents LFL President Lucas Fleming (r) and LFL Executive Director Steve Graves with a donation toward the 2014 program.

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100% OF CONTRIBUTIONS GO TO LAWYERS FOR LITERACY PROGRAM.

Hillsborough Co. Public Defenders Aid LFL Students



Ashley Roura



Theda James



Hillsborough County
13th Judicial District



Dustin Wagner



Kevin Temaul

Eighteen tutors have come forward from the Hillsborough County Public Defender's Office, under Public Defender Julianne M. Holt, to help students at four Tampa elementary schools.

The PD13 office response was the largest from any one organization and enabled Lawyers for Literacy to send 33 tutors in all to Rampello

Downtown K-8 Magnet School, more than double the number at other schools.

Ashley Roura who led recruitment efforts said "We had an immediate and wonderful response in our office to LFL's call for volunteer tutors."

Roura's husband Miguel, an attorney with Banker Lopez

Gassler in Pinellas County, tutors with Lawyers for Literacy and recommended it to his wife.

"Our office always looks for opportunities to give back to our community. LFL tutoring was very rewarding and we were honored to be involved in the program" Ashley Roura said.

LFL President Lucas Fleming said the assistance from the Hillsborough Public Defender's office was very much appreciated and Rampello school leaders, students, and parents were thrilled.

Ashley Roura tutored at Rowland Park Elementary, Kevin Temaul at Macfarlane Park, Dustin Wagner at Dunbar, and Theda James at Rampello. Also tutoring were Adriana Paris, Alisha Dinsmore, Harold Wesley, Jaylene Trivino, John Valenti, Johnathan Comnes, Joseph Monte, Lee Tobin, Matthew Menendez, Michele Whitfield, Nancy Lopez, Shaquana Harper, Taylor McKnight, and Thomas Schoendorf. ■

"And the Survey Says ! . . . "

LFL tutors recently replied to an online survey inquiring how the Lawyers for Literacy Read-to-Succeed Program

could be improved.

According to Executive Director Steve Graves responses will be used to reshape

the program for 2014 in the areas of training, program books and materials, school relations, as well as recruitment of tutors.

Past and new tutors are asked to confirm with LFL by December 15 in order to be oriented and start tutoring in the week of January 13. ■

Become Involved as a LFL Tutor in the Read-to-Succeed Program

Do you have time over your lunch hour once a week for twelve weeks to help a young student who needs to read better?

If so, become a LFL reading tutor beginning in January!

- Orientation to our easy to follow step-by-step tutoring program takes just an hour.
- We place you with a team of tutors going to

the same school on the same day and time. Each has their own / same student throughout.

- There is no in-advance preparation to each tutoring session. You work through the materials together side-by-side.
- You will be increasing the student's self-esteem as well as reading skill. You will be a positive role model.

- You will be giving needed encouragement and support to a child that often gets too little.
- If you have to miss a session, fellow tutors cover by taking your student along with theirs.
- Choose from 14 schools in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.
- In short, you will be making a large lifelong impact on a child's life! ■



Harold Wesley tutors his student Raheem at Dunbar Elementary School which is one of five Tampa elementary schools to be served by LFL in 2014.



LFL Tutors—Spring 2013



Adriana Paris
Alesha Smith
Alicia Conroyd
Alisha Dinsmore
Amy Reagan
Andrew Collinson
Audrey Henneman
Amanda Bettker
Amanda Meadows
Amy San Marco
Ashley Roura
Barbara Marshall
Barbara Pritchett
Beatriz Williams
Belinda Green
Bethany Ann Mather
Bette Damouny
Bill Schneikart
Bill Weller
Bobbie Mosher
Bridget Remington
Brittney Bacon
Carol Hardie
Cathy Kamm
Chris Smith
Christine Derr
CeCe Ingle
Chuck Parsons
Dan Leeper
Dana Greenbaum-Douglas
David Brett
David Petro
Diane Triplett
Dorrance Howland
Dustin Wagner
Emily Fedeles
Georgette Mierz
Godfrey Watson
Harold Wesley
Isela Guzman
Jackie Shannon
Jaylene Trivino
Jeanette Secor
Jeannine Williams
Jennifer Kennedy
John Burnett

John Castro
John Flood
John Valenti
Johnathan Comnes
Joe Murphy
Jordan Isringhaus
Joseph Hunt
Joseph Monte
Joyce Sperry
Judy Howland
Julia Rice
Julie Nichols
Kate Taylor
Katherine Hynes
Katherine Scott
Kathy Ronnenberg
Kayla Richmond
Kevin Temail
Kirsten Davis
Kristen Brett
Kristy Parker
Laura Ankenbruck
Laura Holler
Laurie Remmel
Lee Tobin
Lexie Revord
Lesley Cox
Lindsey Sheppy
Lisa Johni
Lucas Fleming
Mady Dudley
Mary Jane Dann
Mary Rachel Dudley
Matt McCurdy

Matthew Hitcock
Matthew Menendez
Megan Flatt
Melania Tryon
Michele Tallman
Michele Whitfield
Michelle Larkin
Miguel Roura
Nancy Harris
Nancy Lopez
Nick Griffin
Nicole Poot
Nita Carroll
Pam Cichon
Pam Morefield
Pedro Velez
Penny Weston
Peter Fleming
Richard Weis
Ross Felsher
Scott Wagman
Shaquana Harper
Silvia Leeper
Stephanie Adams
Steve Galvin
Sugar-Pi Wiedeburg
Susan Rusek
Suzanne Ennis
Taylor McKnight
Theda James
Thomas Schoendorf
Tim Miller
Tyler Niemann
Varissa Lall Dass

Calendar 2013-2014

- **October 3, 2013**
Kickoff Gathering
- **January 7 & 9, 2014**
Orientation for new tutors
- **January 13-17, 2014**
Tutoring begins at all schools
- **April 7-11, 2014**
Tutoring concludes at all schools

School Schedules

CLEARWATER

Belleair Elementary
Fridays 11:55-12:35pm

High Point Elementary
Tuesdays 11:50-12:20pm

ST. PETERSBURG

Campbell Park Elementary
Wednesdays 11:00-11:30am

Gulfport Elementary
Mondays 12:35-1:10

Jamerson Elementary
Wednesdays 12-1pm

New Heights Elementary
Tuesdays 1:00-1:45pm

Northwest Elementary
Thursdays 11:30-12:15pm

Sanderlin Elementary
Wednesdays 11:15-12 noon

Woodlawn Elementary
Thursdays 11:30-12:15pm

TAMPA

Channelside Academy
Mondays 12:20-1:05

Dunbar Elementary
Tuesdays 12:00-12:45

MacFarlane Park
Wednesdays 11:35-12:15

Rampello K-8 Magnet
Fridays 11:15-12:00
and 12:30-1:15pm

Roland Park K-8 Magnet
Thursdays 11:45-12:30



Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jose Docobo (L) presents LFL President Lucas Fleming with a donation as part of HCSO Charities' Community Enrichment Program.

**We're online
at
LawyersForLiteracy.org
and [Facebook](#)**