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ATC FALL NEWSLETTER 2009

TUTOR RECRUITMENT

Welcome to a new school year, and with it brings a great need for tutors! The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium continues to recruit tutors for the 2009 – 2010 year. If you know of family members, friends or others active in the community, please encourage them to help a child reach their reading benchmarks this year. For more information and/or to submit an application, please visit ATC's website: www.alexandriatutors.org.

BOOK BUDDIES NOW IN EIGHT ALEXANDRIA SCHOOLS

The Alexandria City Public Schools are working hard to strengthen the reading skills of first and second graders. As part of this effort, the ACPS has incorporated the “Book Buddies” plan targeting first graders within eight of our participating schools in Alexandria. If you are matched with a student in the Book Buddy program, written lesson plans for tutoring sessions are tailored to meet each student's current reading level and are supplemented as the child's reading progress improves. Book Buddies training will be held in the school in which you tutor. The program, based on the Book Buddy program designed at the University of Virginia Curry School of Education, will help you make the most of your time spent tutoring your student. The traditional ATC tutoring program continues at Lyles Crouch and Charles Barrett.

FALL FORUM ON NOVEMBER 4

Mark your calendars for ATC's Annual Fall Forum to be held Wednesday, November 4 at the Fairlington Presbyterian Church, 3846 King Street. Please join us for a reception at 7:00 and program beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will be a memorable night with interesting speakers, a chance to meet other volunteers and to learn more about tutoring and the ATC. The target audience for this forum is ATC tutors and all those interested in helping young children learn to read.

Special guest speakers are ACPS Superintendent Morton Sherman, and Burnette Scarboro, African Heritage Outreach leader from Family and School Partnerships at Fairfax County Public Schools. Ms. Scarboro has presented numerous workshops on closing the achievement gap and understanding cultural issues that affect education. Her topic is: **STUDENT SUCCESS: Overcoming Barriers.**

CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The ATC may soon be at a church near you! As part of ATC's efforts to recruit new tutors and energize the community, ATC board members and staff have been visiting various churches throughout Alexandria. This effort is part of our new monthly initiative to meet with church leadership to energize parishioners to become involved in the community through tutoring with

the ATC. ATC is also reaching out to many community groups, including employees of the City, United Way, Goodwin House, associations and businesses.

ANNUAL REPORT HOT OFF THE PRESSES

Check your snail mail for ATC's 2008 – 2009 Annual Report. The report contains statistics, thanks and information on ATC's accomplishments over the past year. As always, ATC would like to thank all of our tutors, volunteer coordinators, elementary school principals, and support throughout the year.

GIFT BOOK PROGRAM FAST APPROACHING

The ATC's winter gift book program will be held December 1 – 15 at Hooray for Books, 1555 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Each tutor is asked to choose \$15 worth of books paid for by the ATC for each of your tutees. It is extremely important that children receive these books chosen by tutors as it encourages them to read and they love getting their very own books! Simply visit Hooray for Books, choose your books and the job is done. Please make sure you shop early so you can give the kids their books before winter break.

TUTOR REMINDER

Please remember to sign in as an ATC tutor each time you volunteer in your designated school and to note the number of minutes you will spend tutoring each student in the ATC notebook. It is the tutor's responsibility to calculate volunteer hours at year's end, and it will be much easier to do so with your hours recorded as you volunteer. An accurate record of time spent with each student each week allows ATC to ensure that we are fulfilling our commitment to each student of two half-hours of tutoring every week from November through May. Thank you!