



323 S. Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
<http://www.alexandriatutors.org>

Phone: 703-549-6670 ext. 119
Fax: 703-549-9425
E-mail: atc@opmh.org

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

*****PLEASE CONSIDER TUTORING AGAIN NEXT YEAR!***

Two thirds (84) of the 125 volunteers who tutored in 2009-2010 returned to tutor again this year. That is a remarkable retention rate. Let's do even better next year. As soon as you know you will tutor again next year, please go to www.alexandriatutors.org and fill out the [short form for returning tutors](#). When you update contact information, if you belong to a congregation or community group, please include that affiliation when asked. When you recruit new volunteers, ask them to fill out the form for new volunteers. The computer now automatically acknowledges receipt of your registration. Questions: 703-549-6670 ext. 119 or atc@opmh.org.

*****VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED***

To input contact data into the ATC database for an estimated 75 new donors who contributed to ATC during the May Spring2ACTion on-line fundraising event.

To produce an updated ATC volunteer handbook using some existing written information. When draft handbook is ready, work with Gwen Mullen to set up an ATC volunteer tutor focus group session to review and give feedback on contents of handbook. At the end of August, ATC will distribute the handbook on-line to all returning and new tutors who use the internet and by mail to those who don't. Starting September 1, it will be sent to new tutors as they register. *Completing this project could be a resume booster!*

To organize education related articles by subject to make them easier to use.

***** THANK YOU FOR TUTORING!***

The ATC Board of Directors and I, Gwen Mullen, Executive Director, want to say again how important your year-long commitment and dedication is to helping a child learn to read. **Thanks in large part to your efforts, 85% of the 142 children in ATC's Book Buddies program reached or exceeded their literacy bench marks on Virginia's end-of-year PALS's* test.** This result is a major gain over last year (78% out of 120 Book Buddies students). We all and ACPS teachers must be doing something right. Congratulations! Please e-mail Beth Sanderson or Andrea Leidolf if you would like additional information about your student's reading progress. bethsand@verizon.net or andrea_leidolf@comcast.net

***** ISSUES TO ADDRESS & REQUESTS MADE IN VOLUNTEER SURVEY***

1. You'd like to be directed to a good place to tutor - the hall has too many distractions.
2. You'd like to be notified ahead of time when your tutee is absent or on a field trip.
3. ATC will let teachers know who the Book Buddies tutors are so they can greet you when you come to pick up your child.
4. You'd like to have more feedback on your student's reading progress.
5. You'd like to have a mid- year school based gathering for tutors to ask questions and exchange tutoring tips.
6. You will be given a tutor list with contact information for your school so you can find a substitute when you are unable to tutor.
7. ATC will ask schools if they can administer the PAL's test and select first graders for the Book Buddies program in September so tutoring can start sooner.

