



Tarrant Literacy Coalition

opening the door to opportunity.

In This Issue

- 2012 Corporate Spelling Bee
- Service Above Self
- End of Semester Top 5 List
- Literacy Texas Conference
- Highlights from April
- Connect With Social Media

Upcoming Events

- Mother's Day (5/13)
- Memorial Day (5/28)
- Last day of Classes-FWISD (6/1)
- Applications due for Literacy Texas Conference (6/1)
- Grant writing workshop (TBD)

Check the website for a complete calendar of events and contact [Jennifer Rollins](#) to have your event added.

Service Above Self

On March 6th, Riverside Middle School and the Rotary Club of Fort Worth partnered for a day of service around the community. Mr. Adams' 8th grade class went to the White Settlement ISD Family Resource Center, where ESL and GED classes meet. The students created motivating posters, encouraging cards, and performed some labor intensive building beautification projects—including removing locker doors to create wall sized display areas.

For many of the students, this was their first experience doing volunteer work. To further help them understand the value of volunteering, the students were asked to write essays about the lessons they learned through service. Their teacher graciously shared the students' essays with us so that we could see first hand what they learned from their experience with service above self.



Insights from the 8th graders:

- ♦ *"The little things in life are what I believe make the biggest difference. At the end of the day we can all say we did a good deed and impacted someone's life."*
- ♦ *"You need to know that there are other people who need to be heard too. Listening to what they're saying will help them too. It would be cool if other school's got to do this too, because if you spread the positive it will come back!"*
- ♦ *"The moral I learned after that day was that it's what you know that will determine how far you'll go. Also, education is the key to every door and leads you to more."*
- ♦ *"I did it because it impacted other lives and it encouraged them to never give up on themselves. After I was finished working I felt good for myself because I knew that I impacted lots of lives and I knew I wasn't going to be paid. I know I effected people's lives by encouraging them to never give up and to thank the teachers and volunteers."*

We want to feature you in upcoming issues of the Coalition newsletter. You get to hear about our efforts and events all the time but we really want to hear from you!

Please submit stories and articles to:
[Jennifer Rollins](#)

Be sure to include a short author bio and your program's information.

2012 Corporate Spelling Bee



By the numbers...

- 2.....**mascots** that showed up to cheer on the teams
- 11.....**volunteers** who planned the 2012 Spelling Bee
- 28.....**Beelines** used during the Bee
- 35.....**sponsors** for this year's Bee
- 52.....**words** misspelled during the Bee
- 68.....**spellers** who participated in the Bee
- 142.....**different words** called by the Wordmaster
- 230.....**guests** who attended the Bee
- 600.....**vowels** in all the words called
- 5,245.....**dollars** raised for **GED student assistance**
- 50,000+.....**dollars** raised to improve the quality and increase the quantity of **adult literacy services** in our community
- Countless...**lives impacted** through literacy programs that are supported with the funds raised and awareness generated as a result of the 2012 Corporate Spelling Bee.

We appreciate your generosity and your support of the Tarrant Literacy Coalition. We hope you will get involved with next year's Corporate Spelling Bee!



Top 5 Best Ways to End the Semester

Written by: [Jennifer Rollins](#)

May 9, 2012

Have you found yourself anxiously looking up at the calendar with summer break looming, leaving you with only a few more class meetings? What will you do with those last precious sessions?

I emailed several adult education programs asking about their end of semester practices. Here is a top five list I have created to share some of the traditions and common ideas that were expressed. Maybe you will be inspired to start a new tradition after hearing about what others are doing.

Top 5 Best Ways to End the Semester:

5. Make a Portfolio—Give your students a folder with all their work from the semester/year in chronological order.

4. Evaluate—Have every student fill out a course evaluation form including what they learned that semester, favorite activity, least favorite activity/topic, and if they will be coming back to class in the fall.

3. Assess—Give an assessment like the TABE or post-test to every student to measure their learning progress.

2. Create a Workbook—compile worksheets for your students to complete over the summer so that they don't forget everything they learned in your class.

1. Celebrate!—Consider inviting your students' families to recognize the achievements of your students through performances, certificates, food, and prizes.

Literacy Texas Conference August 6-7, 2012 in Austin

Will you be going to the 2012 Literacy Texas Conference? There will be workshops supporting programs for family literacy, adult learners, ESL/ABE/GED, workforce preparedness, libraries, volunteer instructors and tutors, Faith-Based, health and financial literacy, citizenship, and more. This year's keynote speakers are John Corcoran and Dr. Guadalupe Quintanilla.

Apply now for **reimbursement of registration fee and travel expenses** through the professional development funds provided through the Literacy Volunteer Training Initiative (VTI) at TCALL. For details, please download the [VTI Conference Reimbursement Announcement](#). To apply for funding, please download the [VTI Conference Reimbursement Application](#). Applications must be emailed by **June 1st** to LiteracyTexasConference@literacytexas.org.

To receive VTI reimbursement funding you should be a *teacher*, or otherwise *directly involved in instruction*, such as a teacher coordinator, curriculum planner, or local program trainer of teachers and volunteer tutors. Reimbursement funds are offered on a first come, first served basis, so get your application in early!

Reimbursement amounts are:

- Up to \$675 of allowable expenses for one (1) or two (2) attendees from the same program.
- Up to \$1,200 of allowable expenses for three (3) or more attendees from the same program.

Thanks to all who attended the volunteer training event with Sharon Zambrzycki.



**Recruiting
Volunteers—Having
a Plan!**



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