

# LITERACY BI-MONTHLY

McLit, Marathon County Literacy Council, Inc.

Issue 8, November 2021



*A Message*

## From the Executive Director



### Happy holidays from the McLit Team:

We are closing the year at McLit with a fun ending. We have Breakfast with the Grinch on Dec. 4th, and hopefully you enjoyed reading the popular children's book at some point in your life. McLit also is answering Santa's letters to help him get ready for all the boys and girls who are already counting down the days 'til Dec. 25. Answering letters can be fun-

ny, sad, and eye opening, and we appreciate all of our volunteers who so selflessly give their time! McLit is also proud to be helping with the refugees/newcomers. Helping others to feel comfortable and safe is the best feeling ever! We are all proud to help with the accomplishments of so many in Wausau. Are you ready for a great New Year?

**Connie Heidemann, Executive Director, McLit**

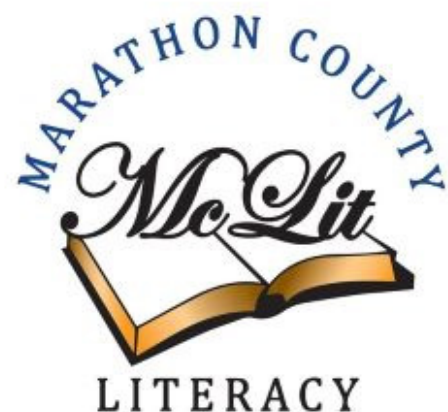
## Introduction

Welcome to our November newsletter! In the following pages, we share updates from McLit, local literacy news, and feature profiles of our hardworking learners, volunteers, and team members.

As always, McLit has continued to support local literacy through its education center, outreach, and partnerships.

September and October were a whirlwind for McLit, which shared the love of reading with Harvest Fest attendees, celebrated a number of milestones with volunteers and tutees alike, helped mentor another class of Joseph Project participants, and worked hard on our upcoming first annual fundraiser, Breakfast with the Grinch and Santa Too! Read more about our "Grinchy" fundraiser as well as other fun "going's on" in this month's edition of our newsletter. Enjoy!

~McLit



## Who we are

Our mission: *Improve quality of life through literacy.*

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the students who enter our program(s). We provide free tutoring services to Marathon County and surrounding areas.

We support and promote literacy at all ages. Areas of instruction include reading, writing, math, finance, health, workforce, computers, ESL/ELL.



## Breakfast with The Grinch... and Santa too

By Sharée Anderson & Maggie Callahan

*United Methodist Church, in downtown Wausau, on December 4th."*

MR. GRINCH: "WHO LIKES CHRISTMAS? IT'S RIDICULOUS, FULL OF CHEER AND JOY, BLEHGGG. DISGUSTING! WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO GIVE TO OTHERS, IT'S SO GROSS."

MR. GRINCH: "THIS IS ABSURD...YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN WITH THEM?! THAT'S CRAZY!"

*Santa: "Christmas is all about the spirit of giving. It's about others, and giving back to your community."*

MR. GRINCH THINKING TO SELF: \*SANTA THINKS HE IS SO FAMOUS...HE'S GETTING HIS PICTURE TAKEN, BLAH BLAH BLAH...I AM MUCH BETTER IN PICTURES THAN HIM! I SHOULD BE THE ONE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA!\*

MR. GRINCH: "NO! NO! NO! NO! NOOOO!!!!!"

*Santa: "To spread some holiday cheer, I am going to be attending a fundraiser breakfast for McLit, Marathon County Literacy Council. They are serving an IHOP pancake breakfast, having a gift basket raffle, and selling fun Who-liday decorations. I am going to take pictures with people and collect letters written to me!"*

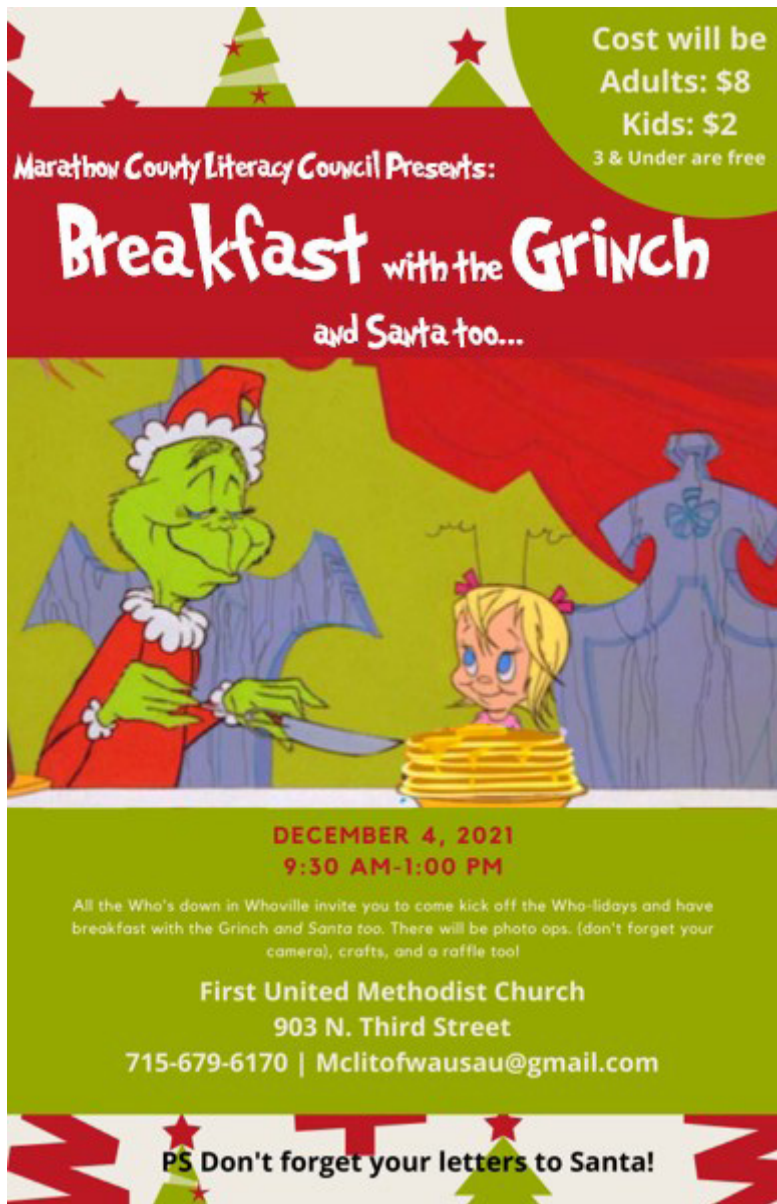
*Santa: "It's for the kids, their parents, and the community. All for only \$8 per adult, \$2 per kid, and free for kids three and under. Any proceeds from this event go to the Marathon County Literacy Council to put back into the community through continuing to provide free services that promote literacy."*

MR. GRINCH: "THAT SOUNDS DISGUSTING! WHERE AND WHEN WOULD PEOPLE EVEN DO SUCH A THING?"

MR. GRINCH THINKING TO SELF: \*HMMM...IF I GO TO THIS EVENT, I COULD BE FAMOUS WITH A FACE LIKE THIS! I CAN ALSO GET MY HANDS ON THEIR SIGNED PACKERS FOOTBALL AND BREWER'S TICKETS RAFFLE BASKETS! HA-HA-HA-HA-HA AND I WILL STEAL THE SHOW...AND I DO LOVE IHOP PANCAKES...\*

*Santa: "They are having it at the First*





**Contact Info for Breakfast with the Grinch is:**  
 Sharee Anderson  
 McLit Marathon County Literacy Council,  
 Inc.  
 515 N. Third St. Wausau, WI 54403  
 (715) 679-6170

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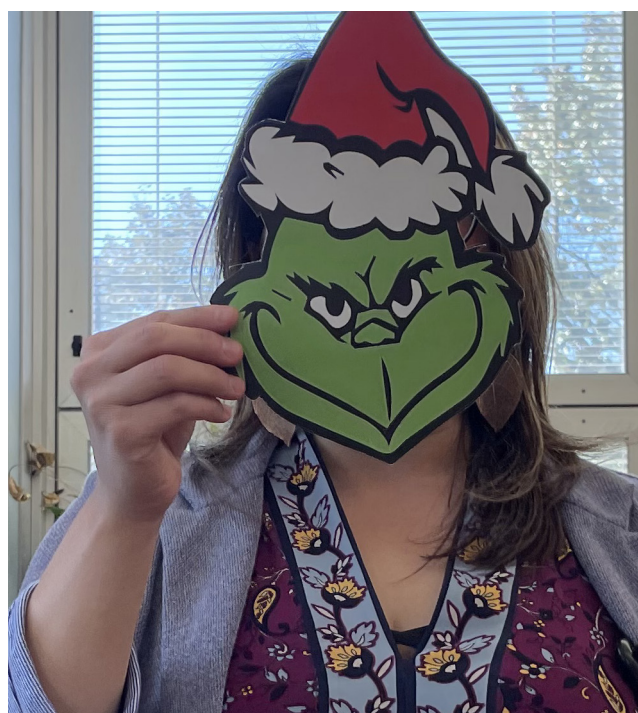
**Grand Theatre Stoney Acres**

**Tlusty Law Firm Canteen Vending**

**Cloverbelt Credit Union**

**Mullin's Cheese Denny's**

**Guess the Grinch! Check out the McLit Facebook page to find out who these local celebrities are!**





## McLit Learner Showcase

**Josh** grew up in Tomahawk, Wis. He first learned about the Marathon County Literacy Council when participating in the Joseph Project. The Joseph Project is a faith-based skills training that connects people with area jobs. It was through the Joseph Project that Josh met Connie, our director, and Johanna, our assistant to the director. Connie describes Josh as “having a heart of gold.” Josh currently works full time at Gordon Aluminum and has become a mentor to other men and women who are wishing to start new careers through the Joseph Project. Commercial driver license manuals are his favorite thing to study, and he hopes to get his CDL in the future. A lesser known fact about Josh is that his favorite animal is a tiger. He says that coming to McLit to see everyone makes him smile, and we are proud to have him as a part of our McLit family.



**John** spent his childhood in Rockford, Ill. He first learned about McLit “in person, on foot, perchance.” John’s favorite subject to study is medical science and he has also put in many hours with us working on math in hopes of attending NTC. Creativity is a strong trait in John and he enjoys skateboarding and making music. Writing songs and playing the guitar make him happy. A goal of John’s is also to work in the food industry. And a big dream of his is to own his own café/gift shop someday. He would make it a place where everyone in our community feels welcome. His motivation for all that he does is a strong desire to support humanitarian efforts. John’s quiet presence and reflectiveness add depth to our pool of tutees. **See the writing excerpt below to enjoy a sample of his creativity and talent in action!**



## To-get-her

### By John

Every time I look your way  
I see them pretty eyes & that smile on your face  
Then I have to salivate  
Cuz I get to thinkin' of how I like the taste  
If words could make you feel beautiful inside what  
would they say?  
But how can words truly define that gorgeous face?  
What words would I use to describe your wild ways?  
That lip gloss & look in your eyes, babe?  
Your style & your grace?  
Silly little words, syllables & verbs  
And words don't say so much

Girl I long to feel your touch  
Your kiss is worth a thousand words  
Your kiss is like water in the desert  
When it's hot you can quench my thirst  
You're my queen & I'm aching for you - it hurts  
I can see in your eyes what money can never buy  
And I can taste on your lips what money can't purchase  
And I wanna spent some time on you  
& pay some attention to you - cuz you're worth it  
The best things in life come for free  
There's no money sign anywhere on me  
Affection, your love & some nice memories  
**Visit our website at [mclitofwausau.org/](http://mclitofwausau.org/) to read more!**

# A Typical, Magical November Day at McLit

**By Jody Schreier**

As our balmy days depart and cold winds arrive, we will see an increase in visitors to the Marathon County Literacy Council. Homeless people will look for a place to warm up and we always welcome them with a smile. Fall also brings that “back to school” discipline that will fill our seats. This morning we have a mix of students and neighborhood people studying, using our computers, and sharing donated snacks.

At our large tutoring table, we have a game session in progress. Taking a break from traditional workbooks, we have some students who love the hands-on learning that comes with educational games. A game of Guess Who helps our English Language Learners with vocabulary words like hair, eyes, clothing, and glasses. Games like Little Spender and Life can give our basic math learners time to practice their counting and money skills.

Mid-morning we have our Venezuelan student, Marilu arrive with an arepa for me to try. Marilu explains that an arepa is a white corn cake filled with meat and extras like avocado. Today Marilu has made me a special arepa with caraotas negras (black beans). With a constant exchange of information and even fun recipes, McLit is a multicultural hub of downtown Wausau.

Next comes a perfect example of how rewarding it

can be to tutor. While reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* with a beginning English student, we come across the page that lists the popular foods that the caterpillar eats. My student looks at the page and repeats the words I say while looking at the pictures. She turns to me with tears in her eyes! She is so excited to learn the words “slice of cheese”. She has heard this phrase many times but had never seen the written words on paper, nor would she have understood what the words represented. Learning everyday phrases can really improve a student’s quality of life.

As the afternoon begins, we are visited by a community member with a box of books that she has enjoyed and would love to pass on. Popular novels like *The Mortal Instruments*, *The Divergent* and the *Twilight* series are always appreciated. Sharing these books free of charge at events or for students within our learning center is an ongoing joy.

Our McLit day ends with a group Spanish class. We have attendees that include staff, volunteers and students. Today we are conjugating verbs and creating sample sentences using correct verb forms. Our native Spanish speakers are here to coach us. We try, we giggle, we succeed. This is a great example of McLit teamwork! ■

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## LITERACY EVENTS DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022

**Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 10:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M. Family Storytime**, <https://www.facebook.com/events/621391225940520>. Join Miss Andrea or Miss Tena for storytime on Facebook Live. Continue to build early literacy skills through interactive stories, songs, and rhymes. Hosted by T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill.

**Saturday, December 4, 2021, 9:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.** First United Methodist Church of Wausau, 903 N. 3rd St., Wausau. **Breakfast with the Grinch (and Santa too)**. All the Who's down in Whoville invite you to come kick off the Who-lidays and have breakfast with the Grinch and Santa too. There will be photo ops. (don't forget your camera), crafts, and a raffle too! The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$2 a kid 3 and under are free! <https://www.facebook.com/events/354037163181686>.

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 10:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M. Family Storytime**, <https://www.facebook.com/events/621391225940520>. Join Miss Andrea or Miss Tena for storytime on Facebook Live. Continue to build early literacy skills through interactive stories, songs, and rhymes. Hosted by T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill.

**Monday, January 10, 2022, 5:30 P.M.** McLit Learning Center, 515 N. 3rd St., Wausau. **McLit Board meeting**.

**Wednesday, January 26, 2021, 11:00 A.M.** The Landing, Woodson YMCA, 707 N. 3rd St., Wausau. **The Landing Literacy Book Club** will discuss *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. Call McLit Marathon County Literacy Council at 715-679-6170 for more information.

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# Thank you to our generous sponsors!



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Thank you to the **Green Bay Packers Foundation** for its generous grant and donation to McLit! With the foundation's help, McLit will have the financial means to continue providing literacy services to Wausau and surrounding areas free of charge. McLit also is excited to have a signed Green Bay Packers football as part of the upcoming raffle to be held during the Breakfast with the Grinch and Santa Too fundraiser on Dec. 4.



**Congratulations to the November 2021 Joseph Project graduates!** The local chapter of the statewide program is coordinated by Pastor Yauo Yang of The Cross Church and Maggie Cronin, district scheduler for Congressman Tom Tiffany. McLit helps provide support to JP participants during and after the week-long program for professional development and job procurement.



# McLit in Pictures: October-November 2021



Harvest Fest 2021



At McLit, tutors use all kinds of resources to help students learn. This book by Eric Carle led to a real breakthrough moment for one of our ELL students.



Happy birthday to Alex, a McLit volunteer, Spanish language learner, and all-around great guy!



# McLit in Pictures: October-November 2021



**Congratulations to Karin! McLit was happy to help her obtain her U.S. citizenship earlier this year. Even Uncle "Sam-ta" came to celebrate.**



**McLit staff and volunteers gather round for their ongoing Spanish lessons**

**Marathon County Literacy Council, Inc.**  
**mclicofwausau@gmail.com, 715-679-6170**  
**515 N 3rd St. Wausau, WI 54403**

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