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**MOUNT ROGERS**  
**Regional Adult Education Program**  
**www. mrraep.com 800-322-7748**

hello  
**February**

**Please Note the January GED testing dates**

**Bristol Public Library**

**February**

**7 Friday**

**22 Saturday (changed from the 15th)**

**26 Wednesday**

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**Galax /Crossroads**

**February**

**8 Saturday**

**18 Tuesday**

**27 Thursday**

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# Staff Spotlight

**Patricia (Trish) Dover-Bedwell**



**This month, we're excited to spotlight Patricia (Trish) Dover-Bedwell, who has been with Mt. Rogers Adult Education for about a year and a half. With experience in adult education before joining MRRAEP, Trish is passionate about helping people improve their lives through learning. "I love to teach," she says. "I love to help anyone who wants to better their life through education."**

**Trish enjoys working with adult learners because they are motivated and eager to reach their goals. Her days are spent preparing lessons, guiding students through educational programs, and finding the best ways to**

support their learning. She believes patience and flexibility are key in adult education, as students often face unique challenges in returning to school.

One of Trish's most memorable moments was helping a woman from her church learn to read. The woman's goal was to read the Bible, and after working together, she was finally able to do so. "She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, 'I finally read the Bible.'" Moments like these keep Trish inspired and motivated.

Outside of work, she enjoys watercolor painting—something she never thought she had a talent for until a few years ago. She even designed and painted the MRRAEP Christmas card this year! She also loves to travel with her husband, Mike, and hopes to visit Ireland or see the Northern Lights someday.

Trish's favorite piece of advice? "*Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.*" That mindset, along with her dedication to lifelong learning, makes her an invaluable part of our team!

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# Student Shoutout

by Linda Sun

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**My name is Linda. My family calls me Hui. I'm from China. My family brought me to the United States, a strange country where they spoke different languages and had different cultures.**

**I wanted to explore a new life here. We initially lived in New York's Chinatown. We could find jobs there without speaking English. But after a while, we felt it was too difficult to live there if you could not speak any English. The prices in New York were too expensive, so we thought we would move out of the city. Our family scattered to different places. My sister now lives in Massachusetts, and my brother lives in Pennsylvania. I live in Virginia.**

**It was even harder to live here in Virginia without speaking English. I found out about a GED class, so one day I came in. My teacher, Sue, is very patient and has helped me a lot. I really enjoy chatting with her. I have learned a lot, and I am happy to be in class**

**After a period of study, I feel more confident when I talk with others. I can communicate more easily with my child (who learned her English in school) and my friends.**

**One day, I decided to become a citizen. The one hundred civics and history questions stumped me at first, but Sue gave me encouragement and help. I passed the Citizenship Exam, and now I am registered to vote! (Note: *Linda voted for the first time in November.*)**

**I still need to study hard, and my goal is to be able to speak and read English even more fluently.**

*"It has been fun to watch Linda's progress over the past year. She has worked hard and rarely missed a class. She has not only improved her English vocabulary but has also learned to write easily using correct grammar. Her reading has progressed several levels as well. She likes to encourage others to follow her example and take advantage of classes." — Suzanne Dill*

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# Windmills Training





**Matt Herron and Alison Enix from DARS, provided Windmills Training to some members of our staff. A goal for our program is to be aware of respectful etiquette and language for creating a comfortable work, and classroom environment. The participants also learned the basics of disability employment law.**

*“One of my most valuable takeaways came with the discussion around how to approach students about resources that are available to them. It has often felt too tricky to bring up available services or referrals at all since legally so much is off-limits unless it's been disclosed; sometimes it has seemed easier to just not say anything at all. This DARS Windmills training session helped me feel more confident identifying ways to better serve potential students with disabilities, whether disclosed or undisclosed. After all, our collective aim is for each*

*individual to have their smoothest path toward educational and workforce goals.”*  
— Hannah Ingram

The Virginia's Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. you can visit their website to learn more.  
<https://www.vadars.org>

***FROM THE DESK OF...***

**SHANNON MUTTER**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER**





Did you know that February 6<sup>th</sup> is “Time to Talk Day”? Soooo, in honor of that I would like to hear what you have to say about the Professional Development we have been offering on Serving Individuals with Disabilities and The Science of Reading. Whether you have been a facilitator or a participant, please fill out the survey using the link below. If you fill out the survey with your email, you will be entered into a drawing for gift card .It’s ok to remain anonymous too, you just won’t get entered in the drawing. The information from the survey will help us when we start writing the grant, so thanks ahead of time for your cooperation!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeewPAmYqWPYKND023jnKzSyc-x-a-KJeMT9CPcrRZPxViFDA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeewPAmYqWPYKND023jnKzSyc-x-a-KJeMT9CPcrRZPxViFDA/viewform?usp=sf_link)



**I want to say thank you to everyone for the kind emails, texts, and phone calls for well wishes in my new job. I am going to miss working with each and every one of you. Thank you for giving me a wonderful work family! I am not going far, you will see me around I am sure of it! I know that the person who takes this position next will be in good hands!**

**Love You,  
Shannon**

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# Kayla Hagy

## Data Specialist

Happy February!

January attendance and any ASPD's or portal submissions that haven't been submitted yet are due Wednesday February 5th.

Any TABE pretests before 6/30/23 have expired. Pretest students in CASAS within 6 hours of attendance.

If anyone has any students that they're struggling to get in to pre or posttest. Please reach out to one of us and we'll help.

Celebrations:

Sue Dickens had 3 students get gains.

Christine & Trish had a GED Completer.

GED Completers: 11

GED Ready & GED tests taken & passed in January: 21

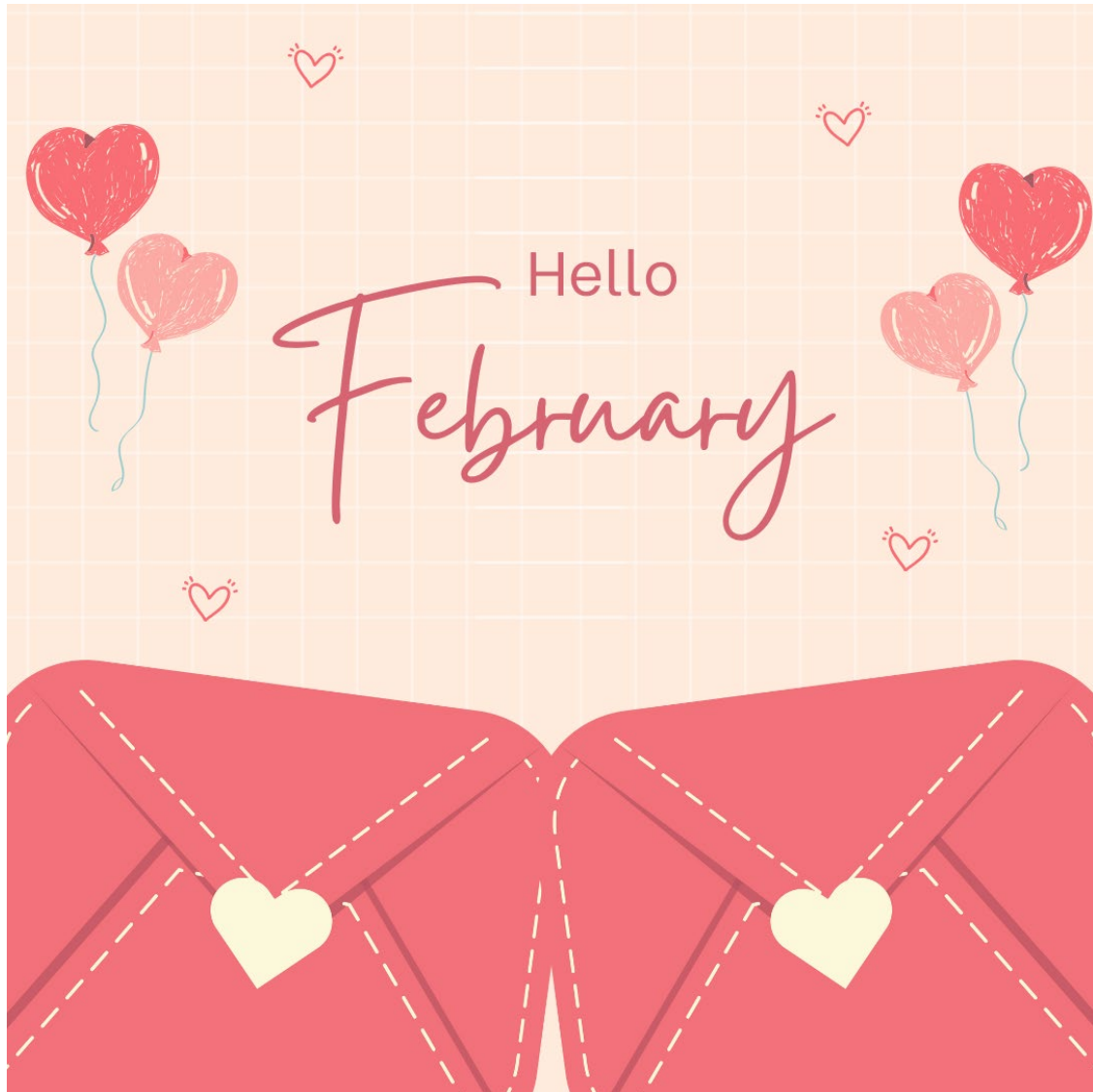
Enrollment total as of: 278

Participants 12+ hours: 201

Current MSG rate: 49.57%



If anyone has any other celebrations please let me know.



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**Cindy Campbell and Lorraine  
Hedgepeth**  
Instructional Specialists

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**A huge thank you to all teachers who have enrolled their students in AZTEC. Remember we have all subjects in AZTEC and in GED Flash. I am loving that you are using this program!**

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**Please be sure that you have at least 3 new student folders ready to go in case a student walks in.**

**A folder should contain:**

**Written inside the left side of the folder:**

**Name and contact info-email and phone**

**Write "Student portal used" or put a copy of ASPD in Program logins and passwords.**

**Casas id Bottom left corner**

Inside the folder  
Progress at a glance  
Goal Sheet  
Contract which both teacher and student need to sign  
DRC report (if taken)  
CASAS report (Content Standards)



## February Birthdays

**4 Mattie Robinson**  
**27 JoyBeth Workman**



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Our mailing address is:  
1 PARTNERSHIP CIRCLE  
ABINGDON, VA 24210