

# LACLEDE LITERACY COUNCIL

## January 2023 Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events

Jan 21, 2023-Monster Trucks  
March 17, 2023 – Corn Beef and  
Cabbage Heritage Baptist Church  
April 28-29, 2023 – Doodle Days  
May 9, 2023 – HiSET Graduation,  
Shriners Club

## Board Meeting

Colab offices 379 E. Elm  
1/10/23 - 5:30

### AGENDA

- 1) Employee Review
- 2) New grants on the horizon
- 3) Upcoming Events
- 4) Website and marketing information
- 5) AmeriCorps service days
- 6) AmeriCorps training days
- 7) Vote on new vice president

## Current Needs

- Funds to update current desk top computers
- Help selling tax credits
- Selling tickets for Corned Beef and Cabbage
- Help at Monster Truck Rally

## HiSET Testing Updates

Last October the Missouri Department of Education changed testing companies from ETS to PSI. Since the completion of the transfer from ETS to PSI the HiSET testing has improved greatly. We are now able to test at the Waynesville OTC building, as well as in the Laclede Literacy Council offices. The most exciting update is that students know instantly if they have passed or not, where in the past they had to wait three to four days. We have applied to be testing center and hopefully that will occur soon.

## Monthly Tutor Spotlight Josh

Josh, who started with the Literacy Council in August and is currently an AmeriCorps member. After graduating from Lebanon High School, he went to the University of California, Santa Cruz and received a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and a Master's of Arts Degree in Education. Josh became excited about teaching while being a middle

school teacher on the island of Guam. He is dedicated as a tutor to help people achieve their goal of getting their High School Equivalent diploma or HISET. He knows at times passing the HiSET can be challenging, but by focusing and pacing oneself, a student can tackle all five subject areas. Being a tutor allows him to cater each tutoring session to his students' needs. It gives Josh a great sense of worth and excitement to hear when a student passes a test. Overall being a tutor is as fulfilling as being a teacher.

#### Recent Results

Josh, currently tutors six students. On average, each one of his students has passed two or more of their HiSET exams. Chris, an adult student who needs a HiSET diploma for work promotions, successfully completed his Social Studies and Language Arts - Reading HiSET subtests in the last two months. The remainder of his students are young adults who will graduate with a HiSET diploma this spring. All his students are extremely focused and determined to be successful. Several of his young adults want to enroll in a two-year college like OTC.

### Graduation

Our next graduation will be May 9, 2023. We already have 10 students testing to fill that day with pride and honor. The Shriners Club has graciously allowed us to use their Temple for our May 9, 2023, HiSET Graduation. We appreciate that kindness.

## Corned Beef and Cabbage RETURNS

2023 is the RETURN of the Corn Beef and Cabbage fundraiser on March 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Heritage Baptist Church. Please watch for updates on our Facebook page. Tickets available now at a reduced price, let us know how many you need.

### Boswell Elementary Update

At Boswell the Staff and kids all returned from Christmas break and are getting back to normal. There is lots of construction going on with the new FEMA tornado shelter and other rooms being added. AmeriCorps tutors are doing a great job working with students. They are concentrating on either reading and social studies or math and science. They meet with students four days a week to help them meet the 5<sup>th</sup> grade goals set by the district. We have seen improvements on I-ready scores. The scores from one tutor showed an increase in skills of 80%.

### 70% Tax Credit

It is tax time again and the Literacy Council still has tax credits available for business owners. In a nutshell, this credit allows you to keep your money at home instead of sending it to Jefferson City. For example: if you owe \$1000 in tax credits you can give the Literacy Council \$700 and send \$300 to the state of Missouri and your tax money will stay at home in Laclede County.

**Support Laclede County and watch us grow!!**