



Tarrant Literacy Coalition

opening the door to opportunity.

Tarrant Literacy Coalition Newsletter

November 2013

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November 6, 2013

With Halloween already here and gone, our office has been in celebration mode! TCU's Better Together group hosted a Halloween party for our GED students (past and present) and their families just last week and had a great time making Halloween about reading with our students and their children. Between the carnival games, candy, and story time, how could you not have had fun?

The children's *Alice in Wonderland* play was fantastic and it looks like we definitely have a couple aspiring actors and actresses in White Settlement.

There were also some fantastic costumes that took serious creativity! A few of our personal favorites were *The Magic School bus's Mrs. Frizzle, Buzz Lightyear, and Captain America*. In case you missed seeing them or the event in general, make sure to check out the pictures on our [Facebook page](#).

The GED community has another reason to celebrate. Multiple special testing dates for the GED exam have been scheduled for October thru December in Dallas and Fort Worth allowing hundreds of additional students the opportunity to test before the end of the year. This has allowed many of our students and yours to test and retest before the GED changes in January. For more information regarding GED testing around our community be sure to read the [Update on GED Testing](#) article below.

We are extremely happy to tell you that 10 of our GED students

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[YouTube](#)

[Social Media](#)

October in Review



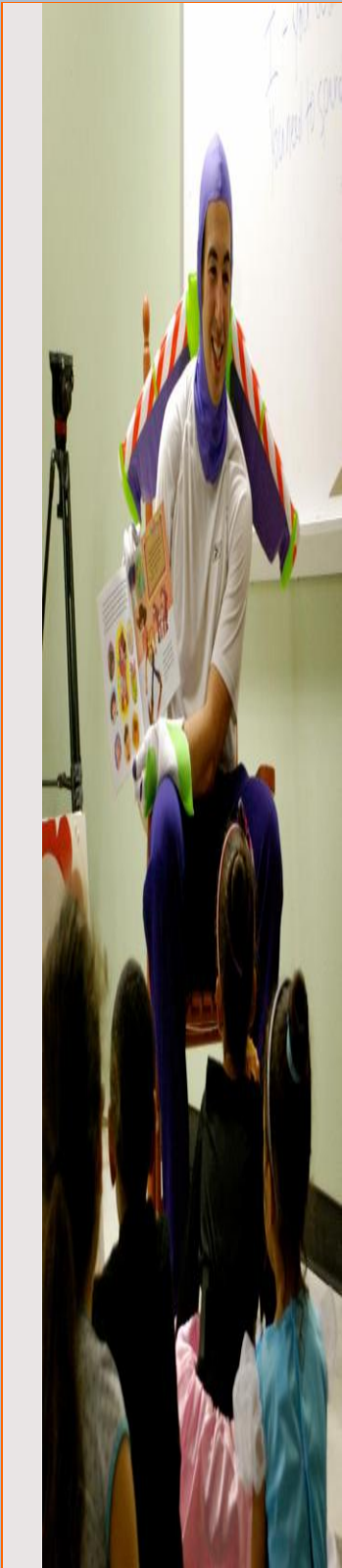
successfully passed all portions of the GED exam in October alone! This number is fantastic and we are incredibly proud of all of our students. Their hard work is paying off and we are thrilled about their successes. We know many of your students have also been successful this season and we want to be sure to celebrate their successes with you.

I would also like to take this quick opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jamie Limes and I am a new (ish) intern here at the Tarrant Literacy Coalition. I am a senior at TCU studying Spanish, Writing, and Education. I started in August and have been having a wonderful time getting to know the incredibly dedicated staff here. They are such a pleasure to work with, as are the inspiring students. I look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming Holiday Educator Appreciation Gathering.

Have a happy Halloween everyone!

Sincerely,
Jamie Limes
Intern

You're invited to



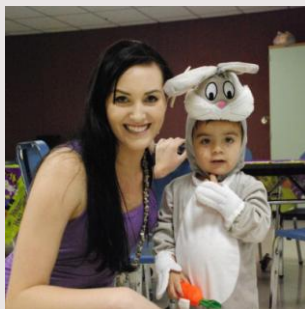
Annual Holiday Educator Appreciation Gathering

It's time to register for the Annual Holiday Educator Appreciation Gathering on Wednesday, November 20 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the White Settlement ISD Mesa High School/Family Resource Center library. The WSISD Family Resource Center has hosted our GED program for nearly three years and we are excited to share it with you at this special event.

We look forward to celebrating you, the educators, this holiday season with holiday food and fun for all - plus some great door prizes. Literacy instructors, program directors, and volunteers are all invited.

We will be announcing the recipients of the 2013 Tarrant Literacy Coalition Technology Grants - TLC will be placing 20 laptop and desktop computers at local program sites, courtesy of Atmos Energy and friends of TLC.

Also, the winners for the year-end "Cash for Class" literacy grants will be drawn and announced at the holiday celebration. First place will receive \$300, second place will receive \$200, and third place



Speak to a GED-Testing Service Representative

Armando Diaz, Public Affairs Specialist with GED Testing Service in Washington, DC is coming to DFW and wants to meet with as many GED

will receive \$100, courtesy of Trial Lab LLC.

Reservations for this event are required by Friday, November 15. Please call (817-870-0082) or [click](#) to reserve your seat at our most exciting event of the year.

Event Details:

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Mesa High School Library

8041 Gibbs Dr., White Settlement 76108

[Click to RSVP](#)

Update on GED testing

In the past month, GED Testing Service and Texas Education Agency, as well as TCC Trinity River Campus, Dallas ISD Adult Ed, and the Tarrant Literacy Coalition have been working very hard to help as many students as possible take the GED exam before the end of the year. Hundreds of students have taken the exam, and we are so pleased at the response of the students and our community partners.

I was at the test registration again this weekend, and need to remind you of this: if you have any students who are going to be taking the GED in the final days of this year, they must know that a valid government issued ID is required to take the exam. Students must also be able to show Texas residency. So, if a student's ID is from another state, he/she needs to take something that proves he/she lives in Texas, such as a utility bill, pay stub with a local address on it, etc. Also, the government issued photo ID must be current. Expired licenses are not acceptable.

Next Friday and Saturday, GED testing will be happening in Dallas at the former Fannin Elementary School. This will likely be the last large GED testing event scheduled this year. (Two days for retests only are scheduled for the first weekend in December in Dallas.) TCC Trinity River Campus regular GED testing is full for the remainder of the year. TCC South and Weatherford College have very few spaces available. Some testing may still be available in neighboring communities including Cleburne and Waxahachie and we are trying to stay on top of that, so if you have a student who still needs to test in December, please let us know and we will try to help - but please do not count on that option. Very limited computer based testing is also available, but again, should only be considered

preparation programs as possible. The meeting will be Thursday, November 7 at 10:30 am, location TBD. If you would like to attend this event please contact ktompson@tarrantlit.org

Volunteers Seeking an Impactful Opportunity

Do you have an upcoming literacy event or project that would be benefitted by the incredible energies of eager professional volunteers? Please contact Jen at jrollins@tarrantlit.org with your volunteer request and the Tarrant Literacy Coalition may be able to aid you in your search for some extra help.

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](mailto:Jennifer.Rollins@tarrantlit.org). Be sure to include a short author bio and some general information about your program

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as a last alternative. Time is running out.

Thank you for all you are doing to help these students. We are working hard to gather as much information as we can about the GED 2014 and will host a meeting in January to talk about the new test and to share ideas on where we go from here. The Tarrant Literacy Coalition is committed to helping you and your students as we all work together to develop new ways of preparing our students for the new exam.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your students.

Warmest regards,
Kathryn B. Thompson, CFRE
Executive Director

Literacy and Learning Workshop

Please make plans to attend the Literacy and Learning Workshop featuring presenters from the National Reading Conference on Saturday, December 7 from 12:30-4pm at the Dallas Public Library. At this event you can expect to learn from some of the Nation's top literacy researchers and practitioners. Sessions may cover topics such as family literacy, working with low level learners, teaching the teachers, literacy and technology, and reading comprehension. There is no charge to attend this event, but advance registration is required. [Click to register now!](#)

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