



READING: BETWEEN THE LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CAPPI WADLEY READING AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

November/December 2012

Last Day of Tutoring:

- November 28 for Peggs students
- December 6 for Thursday night students
- December 19 for all others

Closed for Christmas break:

- We will be closed December 20—January 1. We will reopen January 2.

Tutoring resumes in February:

- We will be contacting you to see if you are interested once we have our final tutor numbers.

Like us on Facebook for news, photos and the latest updates!

- Look for the Capitola "Cappi" Wadley Reading and Technology Center



Jacob and Duvall Capture Kids' Imaginations



Author Deborah Duvall and illustrator Murv Jacob

On October 30, local artist and illustrator, Murv Jacob, and author Debbie Duvall captured the imaginations of those in attendance at the first Family Literacy Night hosted by the Cappi Wadley Reading and Technology Center.

Jacob and Duvall, known for *The Grandmother Stories*, shared their talents with over 30 people, actively involving the children in the audience through storytelling and songs. The pair explained the origin of their stories: traditional Cherokee tales.

Deborah L. Duvall, author, was born and raised in the

heart of Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma where she has lived and worked with the Cherokee Tribe on numerous projects and cultural endeavors over the years. Her in-depth knowledge and love of Cherokee history, tradition, and culture resonate with genuine 'Cherokee' warmth and humor in her authoring of *The Grandmother Stories*.

In addition to the Grandmother Series, Duvall has authored two non-fiction books; *Images of America: The Cherokee Nation & Tahlequah* and *Voices of America: Tahlequah & the Cherokee Nation*.

Murv Jacob, artist / illustrator, a descendant of Ken-

tucky Cherokees, is known for his intricate paintings of Cherokee village scenes, Cherokee people and animal dances. His ample illustrations for these books are as detailed and rich as any of his award-winning paintings. In the 1990's, Jacob's art career grew to include book and video projects, which now number more than seventy. His publishers include Time Life Books, National Geographic, Harper-Collins, Dial, Parabola, Oklahoma University Press and more.

Each child in attendance received a signed copy of the book *Rabbit and the Well*.





From the Director's Chair

Many parents have asked if there is anything they can do to keep their children “on task” over the upcoming holiday breaks. If you have a computer and internet access, the answer is a resounding “Yes!”

www.starfall.com is a great site for your PK-2. At the bottom of their home page, you'll find a “Parents” link. This page will give you information for using the site with your son or daughter.

www.readinga-z.com literally has THOUSANDS of downloadable books that cover all reading levels; most even have accompanying lesson plans and worksheets.

www.jumpstart.com has activities for pre-school through 5th grade. At the bottom of their homepage, you'll see a link to “grade-based activities.” From there, your child can find activities that interest them and keep them learning.

www.bookadventure.com is similar to Accelerated Reader that your child's school probably uses. Students read the books and take the accompanying online quiz. While this isn't the best way to encourage reading, some students really like the idea of earning points. You would have to check the books out of the public or school library, however.

www.readwritethink.com is a phenomenal site. On the left side of the homepage, you'll be able to refine your search by grade level and by learning objective.

mathforum.org (no www) is The Math Forum at Drexel University. This site offers math help from primary-trig/calc. Of special interest is the problem and puzzles tab which is where you will find the math problem of the day.

www.khanacademy.org is another absolutely phenomenal site. Khan Academy is best known for its math tutorial videos and practice, but they have recently added science, history, civics, and humanities to their repertoire. While some of the videos may be more suited to your middle school or high schooler, I'm sure you'll find something there that will help.

iTunes educational apps are also a great way to help maintain the knowledge

base your son or daughter has built. These apps cover all grade and skill levels and all subjects. While you're on the iTunes page, check out some of their educational podcasts, too.

If you don't have access to a computer or the internet over the long break, relax; there is something for you, too. The public library will be open over most of the break, and the best way to help students stay on top of their learning is to read daily. Take your child to the library and ask a librarian to help you check out appropriate books. Ask your child what he or she would like to read about; often in schools, children are forced to read things that are “boring” to them; as a result, they comprehend and retain little of what they read. Therefore, their interest is extremely important.

If your child isn't reading on his or her own yet—or even if he or she is—take time each day to read to your child. Ask open-ended questions while you read, things like, “What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that?” “What's your favorite part so far?” “Why do you think this character did that?” You don't have to be a literacy specialist to encourage your child to read and interact with the text.

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Great Things Are Happening!

A lifelong learner and educator, Capitola “Cappi” Wadley taught her students that anything is possible if they worked hard, studied and applied their intellect. That attitude dominated her life and was the driving force behind the creation of the Capitola “Cappi” Wadley Reading and Technology Center at Northeastern State University, where young students can overcome reading deficiencies and educators can become better prepared to help them learn to read.

Candidates in Northeastern State's education programs provide tutorial assistance to students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in this nearly 7,800 square-foot facility. This facility, made possible by a milestone donation from Gregg Wadley and his wife Dr. Betsy Brackett, honors Wadley's mother, Capitola “Cappi” Wadley who was a librarian at NSU and a public school teacher. Here, candidates gain practical experience working in the clinic under the supervision of Northeastern State faculty, while students from Tahlequah and surrounding communities enrolled at the clinic receive additional instruction in reading and literacy skills.

One week after officially opening, Connie Reilly, regent for the Regional University System of Oklahoma, toured the Center. Reilly

said the great importance of the Wadley Center and other reading clinics is their ability to open children's minds to intellectual realms. “If students can't read, they can't learn of new places and new ideas and delicious words through books,” she said. “In many ways, an inability to read can feel like a prison. If a child can read, they can go beyond physical borders through books and reading and deciding on subjects they want to explore.”

Currently, the Cappi Wadley Reading and Technology Center serves over sixty local elementary students. Peggs Public Schools brings children to the Wadley Center every Wednesday morning. “Bringing tutees to the Cappi Wadley Center makes the tutoring experience an ‘event’ to which students look forward. My tutee seems motivated by this novelty and special time away from the regular classroom. The small rooms in the center provide a cozy place for one-on-one instruction that allow the student to focus on the task at hand without the interruptions or distractions which might occur if tutoring in the elementary school. I have previously tutored in the cafeteria of a local elementary school and it was very difficult for students to focus in such a large space with other people, announcements, and diversions. The computer in

each room allows for the integration of technology (something that is generally not possible when tutoring at the school site) and further motivates students,” explained tutor Angela Loyd. “I, personally, believe that it is also a great opportunity for these students to be exposed to the college environment (even if only a small glimpse). A hidden benefit might be that it removes some of the fear from students' thoughts about higher education and makes it less of an ‘unknown.’ That could be enough to plant the seed and inspire some students to aim for college when they get older.”

On Thursday evenings, parents and guardians bring their children who attend various elementary schools. Bell Public School provides transportation for several of their students to receive tutoring each week. This evening session provides a unique experience for tutors to interact with parents. “From my perspective,” explains reading professor Ingrid Massey, “tutoring on site in the Cappi Wadley Center has been extremely beneficial for both our pre-service teachers and the students within the communities we serve. Having the ability to interact with both students and parents is of great benefit to our teacher candi-



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dates. In past site-based tutoring experiences, our teacher candidates never had the opportunity to interact with parents, gain insight or additional information, or conference with them as needed. This opportunity allows our teacher candidates the experience of working directly with parents, discussing the tutoring sessions, each child's individual strengths and needs, and a brief parent-teacher conference at the conclusion of tutoring.”

Tammy Runabout, mother of a first grader, states, “As a mother, one of the hardest things to deal with is to see your child struggle. My son would get so frustrated trying to read that it affected his self-confidence and would bring him to tears at times. Since he began tutoring once a week, he has excelled in sounding out his words and has regained his self-confidence. He brings a book home every week from school. Last night, he read his book with very little help. To see the smile on his face when he realized what he had done on his own was priceless.”

Another parent, Angela Leach, agrees. “Your program and tutors have inspired my daughter to want to learn to read in the few weeks this past summer when she started participating in your tutoring program. And her love of reading and vocabulary continues to grow with each ses-

sion this fall. She looks forward to Thursday every week and can't wait to go to her 'reading lesson' as she calls it. I can see her confidence growing as her eyes light up when she's able to read something, understand it and explain what it means. If we could be a fly on the wall during her sessions, I'm sure we'd be even more amazed and further in awe of the quality educators your program is producing.”

“This program has been very instrumental for Alec,” Angelia Swimmer states. “He is enrolled with Sequoyah's Immersion School and had never read English before beginning this program. In the little time he was there for the summer session and now this one, he has made a tremendous turn around and has really impressed us. You can tell it has boosted his self-confidence and he tries to read more and more now. I think it has been a very remarkable program and I am very thankful for him being accepted into the reading program. He has come a long

way in very little time and he is eager to continue on learning and reading. “

Recently, the Wadley Center received a \$20,000 grant from AT&T to purchase educational technologies, books, and to fund our first Family Literacy Night to be held October 30. Local author and local illustrator, Debbie Duvall and Murv Jacob, will be speaking to area children and their families about their crafts. Tulsa Teachers Credit Union is donating pizza for the event which promises to be the first of many such Family Literacy Nights. Each child in attendance will be given a signed copy of one of Duvall and Jacobs' books.

In addition to our in-depth tutoring services, the Cappi Wadley Reading Center also offers computer assisted learning to community learners and NSU students through the Center for Study of Literacy, an ever growing library of books and audiobooks, and language development through the use of Rosetta Stone™ language learning software.

