



THE LITERACY TASK FORCE OF NORTHERN WISCONSIN

Promoting, providing, and developing literacy opportunities to serve children, adults, and their families in North Central Wisconsin.

BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2010

www.literacytaskforce.org

Travis Nez: *A Gifted Entrepreneur*

Travis Nez, my 16-year-old son, is thriving as a sophomore at Phillips High School, but I remember as early as 1st grade we knew he was having trouble learning how to read. In 2nd grade he was diagnosed with ADHD and was also determined to have mild dyslexia. At that point, Travis was put in Special Education classes for math and reading, and because he is such a hands on learner, he was also enrolled in the gifted program. He did well in both settings.

But again in 4th grade he began falling significantly behind his peers in reading and was having attention problems in school. We hired a tutor who told us about Orton-Gillingham (O-G). Initially, when I researched O-G, I was discouraged because I couldn't find any trained teachers in our area.

That was when I found Le Ganschow and when the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin was started. I took the first Literacy Training Course offered by the Literacy Task Force.

We home-schooled Travis during his 5th grade year. Travis began getting Orton-Gillingham based multi-sensory reading tutoring from me (his mother), from Le, and later from Shirley Smith who was trained during one of the other summer sessions.

In 6th grade he was put back into public school, closer to his peers in reading, but still in Special Education. He has thrived in public school and has many friends. Travis is very fortunate to be in a small

reading class of four. In the beginning of this year he was tested with the Star Reading Program and scored a 9.5. A month later he was tested again and scored 6.6. Later, in a third test, he scored 11.8. Even with the wide range in scores, Travis has developed enough skills to handle the reading assignments he is given.

Travis' struggles with reading have not held him back. When Travis was eleven years old he launched a farmer's market business and sold vegetables during two summers. Then he was hired by a resort as a "boat boy." Through that experience he met summer guests and by the time he was age 14, he had launched a fishing guiding business. His earnings allowed him to buy a used boat and motor and then, within a year, to

upgrade to a bigger Bass boat, all paid for from his earnings. He also holds down a part time job cooking at a nearby resort where he earned employee of the year in 2009. In his freshman year he was voted class president and in his sophomore year he was voted president of FBLA. Travis has an avid interest in politics and spends time on Facebook using and practicing his writing and

spelling skills as he debates his causes.

Of course, now that he has his driver's license he bought himself a used SUV to haul around that nice Bass boat.

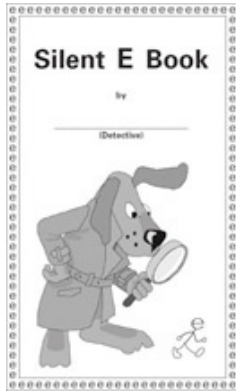
Contributed by Sally Nez, Travis' mother



See Page 4 for more
information about
**FREE TUTORING this
Summer!**

TEACHING TIP:

The Five Jobs of Silent E



Most reading and spelling programs teach that Silent E makes the vowel before it long, as in the word *name*. Sometimes called *magic e* or *marker e*, students learn how Silent E changes the vowel sound in words such as *cap/cape*, *Sam/same*, and *at/ate*.

But did you know that Silent E performs other functions in English words as well? Here is a summary of the five jobs of Silent E:

Job #1: Silent E makes the vowel before it long, as in *note*.

Job #2: Silent E can make *c* and *g* soft, as in *race* and *page*.

Job #3: Silent E keeps *u* and *v* from being the last letter in a word, as in *clue* and *give*.

Job #4: Silent E adds a vowel to words with the consonant+le syllable pattern, as in *handle*.

Job #5: Handyman E takes care of the jobs the other *e*'s don't cover.

- Handyman E keeps a singular word from ending in *s*, as in *goose*.
- Handyman E is often found in words where the *e* used to be pronounced, as in *come*.
- Handyman E is added to distinguish between two words, as in *or* and *ore*.

Most reading and spelling programs only discuss the first job and skip the rest—but it's important for students to know all of the jobs of Silent E. Learning the roles that Silent E plays enables students to decode and encode new words much more easily.

Literacy Task Force Board Member, Marie Rippel is the author of the *All About Spelling* and *All About Reading* programs. For more information on teaching about Silent E, go to www.all-about-spelling.com/silent-e



SAVE THE DATE: LITERACY TRAINING WORKSHOP JUNE 14-25, 2010

The 2010 Literacy Training Workshop will be held June 14-25 in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Trainees spend the first week from 8:00am to 4:00pm learning in depth, research-based instructional interventions in reading and spelling and the second week from 12:00 to 5:00pm in a tutoring practicum. Participants will have hands on experiences tutoring a child or adult who has moderate to severe reading or spelling difficulties under the supervision of instructors trained in multi-sensory structure language methodologies.



Go to www.literacytaskforce.org for more information.

THE LITERACY TASK FORCE OF NORTHERN WISCONSIN

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Friends of Literacy,



The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin is excited to bring to you our *first* newsletter to be published biannually, Spring and Fall. Our hope is to let individuals in the Northwoods and around the state, know and understand our mission of serving children and adults with reading difficulties.

Did you know that one in every 5 individuals has difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing? Through speaking engagements in local libraries, Kiwanis, Rotary and other volunteer organizations, the task force works to raise public awareness about the impact of reading difficulties. Since 2004, our goal has been to train area tutors and teachers in researched-based direct, systematic, and multi-sensory instructional approaches in order to tutor individuals with moderate to severe reading and spelling needs. To date, we have trained 79 tutors through our beginning level literacy training workshop held in June in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Besides receiving training, the tutor also completes 5 practicum hours with a student in need. After the training, tutoring often continues to be available to the student. The dates for the 2010 summer Literacy Training Workshop are June 14-18 from 8 to 4 and June 21-25 from noon to 5 and will be held at the Northern Advantage Job Center in Rhinelander. In our 6 year history, we have served over 100 children and adults through tutoring and have raised over \$16,000, providing scholarships for trainees and tutoring for individuals. To continue to accomplish these tasks we rely on the generous financial support of individuals and local organizations in the communities we serve.

Why do we continue to do this work? Just the other day I bumped into a trainee from the 2009 summer training. She said that she was moving to Portage and she was going to begin tutoring there. As we parted, she said to me, "The workshop has changed my life and the life of my foster son. Why aren't they teaching this in schools? I never learned *how* to teach reading." And that is why we continue with passion.

If you would like more information or are interested in supporting the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin, I invite you to view our website www.literacytaskforce.org, or contact us by mail or phone.

Respectfully,

Donna Hejtmanek
Co-President

Become a Member or Donor:

The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin relies solely upon donations to support literacy needs in north central Wisconsin.

Your \$10 per person membership and other donations are used for workshops and presentations, informational literature, tutor training scholarships, tutoring materials and to support operating expenses for the organization.

Go to www.literacytaskforce.org for more information.



The Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin is a non profit organization dedicated to helping families and individuals in north central Wisconsin who struggle with reading and spelling. We are parents, educators and concerned citizens. We partner with the Wisconsin Branch of International Dyslexia Association (WIBIDA), Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Nicolet Area Technical College.

Literacy Task Force
of Northern Wisconsin
PO BOX 574
Minocqua, WI 54548
1800-544-3039 x4580
www.literacytaskforce.org

Calendar

Board Meetings are held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church in Minocqua.

March 8, 2010

Board Meeting

April 12, 2010

Board Meeting

May 10, 2010

Executive Team Only

June 7, 2010

Board Meeting

June 14-25, 2010

Literacy Training Workshop,
Northern Advantage Job Center, Rhinelander

July 12, 2010

Board Meeting

September 13, 2010

Board Meeting

October 11, 2010

Executive Team Only

November 8, 2010

Annual General Open Meeting,
Location and Time TBA



WISCONSIN BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION (WIBIDA) NEWS:

There is a lot of activity going on this Spring at the Wisconsin Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. WIBIDA is sponsoring three presentations by Sally Grimes, founding director of Massachusetts' Grimes Reading Institute. She will be speaking at the Pyle Center in Madison on March 14 from 1-3pm. This is a free event open to the general public. On the 16th of March, Grimes will speak to the Department of Public Instruction and State Legislators. More information on these events can be found at www.wibida.org or the new wisconsinreadingcoalition.org website.



The Wisconsin Reading Coalition Kickoff will be held on March 14 after the Grimes presentation. The Coalition will operate as an information clearinghouse for the many organizations and individuals in Wisconsin who are committed to bringing scientifically-based reading instruction to all students.

Members of the WIBIDA Government Affairs Committee are working to get support for two dyslexia bills, AB 583 and 584. These bills face opposition from DPI, WEAC and the State Reading Association. It will be an uphill battle so please contact your state representatives to support these bills.

--contributed by Jan Evans, WIBIDA Board of Directors

FREE TUTORING THIS SUMMER FOR PERSONS WITH READING/SPELLING DIFFICULTIES:

This summer the Literacy Task Force of Northern Wisconsin is offering free tutoring for children and adults who have reading/spelling difficulties. Persons receive five hours of free individualized tutoring during a tutor training course (June 21-25, 2010) at the Northern Advantage Job Center in Rhinelander. Continuation of free tutoring may be available upon completion of the initial instruction. For application information, contact Nona Soroosh at 715-479-4114 (soroosh@nnex.net) or Bonnie Margitan at 715-356-6889; margitan@newnorth.net. During the daily one hour tutoring sessions, parents have the option of attending a parent workshop to discuss their child's reading/spelling issues and learn techniques for working with their child.

Literacy Task Forces' Goals:

1. To train area volunteer tutors and teachers to work with individuals with moderate to severe reading and spelling needs.
2. To raise funds for tuition scholarships and literacy training as well as for tutoring resources materials.
3. To raise public awareness about the impact of reading difficulties.
4. To connect parents and persons needing tutoring with resource persons.
5. To maintain an up-to-date data base of resource persons.
6. To support partial tutoring costs for parents whose child may need extensive tutoring.