

The READ Review

A Quarterly Publication of READ La Porte County, Inc.
Summer 2013 Edition



***We're online!** Head to www.facebook.com/ReadLaPorteCountyInc and "Like" our page to receive regular updates on READ and learn about upcoming events. There are two different pages titled "READ La Porte County," so be sure to select the one that ends in "Inc." and has a stack of books as the icon.

What's New with READ?

*We are pleased to announce that READ has been awarded a \$2000 grant from the Bethany Lutheran Church of La Porte Foundation, Inc. These funds will be used for marketing and training. We greatly appreciate Bethany's continued support of READ's mission!

*On May 4th, READ held a free Tutor Training at La Porte County Library. We had 10 current and potential tutors in attendance. We thank the La Porte County Public Library for hosting us as well as Jimmy John's of La Porte for donating sandwiches for lunch.

*On May 2nd, a team sponsored by READ received 4th place in the Literacy Council Executive Spelling Bee. The word that knocked us out of 3rd place was "flibbertigibbet."

*READ has also been awarded a \$2000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. These funds will be used to purchase books and library summer reading program prizes for La Porte's summer school students. Contact Mary Hedge if you are interested in volunteering at summer school, which runs from June 3rd through June 27th at Lincoln Elementary School.

Coming Soon...

*The La Porte County Public Library's Summer Reading Program runs from June 1st through July 31st. This year's theme is "Dig Into Reading." Both children and adults can participate. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more information.

***Save the Date!** On July 16th, READ will be partnering with Holly's Restaurant & Pub in Michigan City for a Give Back Event. This event spans both lunch and dinner. Just print out the attached coupon and head over to Holly's to support READ while enjoying a delicious meal. Please feel free to distribute coupons to your family members and friends as well!

***Save the Date!** This year's Scrabble Tournament will be held Thursday, September 26, 2013. The theme is "Fall Into Reading." We will be playing at the Best Western Plus La Porte Hotel & Conference Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the first round starts at 7:00 p.m. In addition to exciting game play, our two-person teams will enjoy complimentary appetizers, a cash bar, and the opportunity to compete for prizes and bragging rights.

Use the attached registration form to get your team signed up today. Tutors play for FREE! Corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Stats Update: Our last statistics showed READ's 31 tutors actively serving 90 students, including 67 children, 3 adults, and 20 ESL learners. In a typical year, READ sees a total of approximately 200 students take advantage of its tutoring.

As a reminder to classroom tutors, please be sure to get your stats for this year in including the number of students you had and the time you tutored each one. We need this information for our annual report to ProLiteracy Worldwide. Thanks for your help!

READ Success Story

Nancy Stephenson, READ's student intern from Brown Mackie College, has had dramatic results from her work with a seven year-old student from a Spanish-speaking background. When Nancy met her student this past March, he could barely read, did not know his numbers and was getting all F's on his report card. After talking to his teacher, Nancy decided to tutor him six days a week - an hour after school each weekday and an hour on Saturday.

Each day, Nancy had the student spell his spelling words and practice the ones he missed as homework. The pair also worked on math together. Nancy used a variety of different activities to keep her student interested, including writing a story using his spelling words, talking about school and home, playing money dominoes and drawing.

Nancy writes, "[I]f I don't let him give up on himself and make a big deal out of every accomplishment he makes it tends to keep him working hard."

Both Nancy and her student were dedicated to their work and within the first month, he went from getting all F's to getting all A's and B's! The school principal was very surprised to hear him read a story all the way to the end. Nancy is going to continue working with her student during summer school to ensure he has the skills he needs to make it through the second grade.

***We thank Nancy for her hard work and for sharing her success story for this first monthly column!**

What We're READING...

A Review of M. L. Stedman's "The Light Between Two Oceans" by Greg Fruth

What happens to a moral man placed in a moral dilemma? What happens when one cannot tell the difference between right and wrong? M. L. Stedman's novel allows us to mull the answers to these questions.

Tom Sherbourne has returned from four years of war on the Western Front during World War I. Disillusioned, he seeks an environment where he can live a simple life. He returns to Australia and accepts a job as light keeper on Janus Rock, a half of a day's journey from the mainland and from the village of Partageuse, where he meets Isabel. They marry and move to Janus Rock, isolated from the world. Their love is marred when Isabel suffers two miscarriages. When a boat crashes onto the island, Tom and Isabel discover a dead man and an infant. Immediately, Tom wants to turn the baby over to the authorities, but Isabel convinces Tom that the infant is a gift. Baby Lucy becomes the light of the couple's lives.

A lighthouse exists to warn of danger, but Isabel never realizes this truth. Tom wrestles with the truth and becomes torn between right and wrong, love and morality. In turn, the reader wrestles with these values.

M. L. Stedman's first novel is riveting. Tom is well developed; Isabel, not as much. While the author allows the reader to understand Tom's dilemma, Isabel is remote, and the reader lacks a fuller empathy for the suffering mother. The plot is full of twists and turns, especially the conclusion. The stark setting becomes as significant as the characters. Stedman has produced a first novel that grabs the reader and doesn't let go until the novel is finished. She reminds us of the complexities of life and of the devastating consequences our decisions have on us.

Pick this novel up and you won't put it down until it is finished.



HOLLY'S
RESTAURANT
MICHIGAN CITY, IN

Gives Back \$\$\$\$\$

Group: Read LaPorte County Inc.

Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Location: Holly's, Michigan City

You must receive this token from Read LaPorte County Inc. prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Holly's property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds. SCRIPT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN. NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY.



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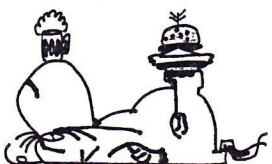
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Join us for our 10th Annual Scrabble Tournament!
This year's theme – Fall Into Reading!

Thursday, September 26, 2013
6:30 p.m. – Doors open
7:00 p.m. – Tournament begins

Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center
La Porte, Indiana

Two-person teams compete in two rounds using traditional Scrabble rules (scrabble-assoc.com). Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, top word scorer, and the team that creates most words from our themed list. We will also have a Silent Auction with a variety of prizes for those who wish to participate. Complimentary appetizers will be provided and a cash bar will be available. We look forward to seeing you!

Please send registration forms by September 23, 2013 to:
Mary Hedge, READ La Porte County, Inc.
904 Indiana Avenue
La Porte, IN 46350

Questions? Give us a call at 219-325-0875.

A check in the amount of \$25.00 for each player, made payable to READ La Porte County, Inc., must be returned with this form. Please feel free to photocopy this form.

Team Member #1: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Team Member #2: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Name of Organization (if any): _____

- ___ Instead of registering a team, I am enclosing a donation of _____ to support literacy tutoring.
- ___ I would like to help teams in need of sponsorship so I am enclosing a donation of _____.
- ___ Please send me more information about READ La Porte County, Inc. and how I can volunteer to help.