



TUTORING TIMES

A Season of Thanks...

Oct/Nov 2008
Volume 1, Issue 1

On behalf of all the staff and youth of Mercy Home, I would like to sincerely thank all volunteer tutors for the dedication and patience you share with your students. Tutors provide more than homework help; each week as you donate your time, you serve as exemplary models of generosity.

Thank you, tutors!!!

Highlights

* Barbara, an experienced tutor on the girls campus, has gone above and beyond her weekly, hourly commitment. Barbara works regularly with Lindsey in Seton home, but when Brenda of Bernadin home needed some ESL support, Barbara committed even more time and energy to helping out. Brenda is a native Spanish speaker, so Barbara agreed to stay past her tutoring session to help Brenda with her conversational English skills. In addition, Barbara was able to provide Brenda with information on free ESL classes at Daley College. Thank you for your effort and creativity, Barbara!

* Oscar and Bryan have been working together for over a year now. Oscar feels privileged to work with Bryan and states that in the time they've worked together, Oscar has "seen a marked improvement in Bryan's eagerness to learn." Oscar also stated that "Bryan is an incredibly intelligent young man...capable of achieving amazing results." Bryan was recently awarded "Student of the Week" in Noha home. Oscar confirmed that Bryan has been working hard and deserves the recognition he has received. Keep up the great work!

Have a tutoring highlight? Please contact Kate Tkacik at kattka@sbu.edu with your story!

A Presidential Tradition



This year marks the 61st anniversary of the National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation. Though live Thanksgiving turkeys have been presented intermittently to presidents since the Lincoln administration, the current ceremony dates to 1947, when the first National Thanksgiving Turkey was presented to President Harry Truman.

The presentation at times has brushed against broader history. For example, the November 1963 event was one of President Kennedy's last in the Rose Garden. The first President Bush

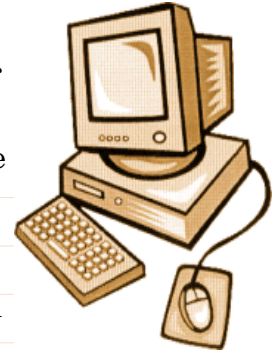
conducted the 1990 ceremony just before leaving for Thanksgiving with the troops in the Persian Gulf region. President Clinton in 1996 returned from an Asian summit and literally went directly to the ceremony.

Presidents traditionally have granted the National Thanksgiving Turkey a "pardon". After the presentation, the turkey will be flown first class to Disney World in Orlando, where he will be the grand marshal of "Disney's Thanksgiving Day Parade." After the parade, guests will be able to visit the bird in the backyard of Mickey's Country House in Magic Kingdom Park.

Source: www.whitehouse.gov

Useful Tips for Guiding Internet Research

With the wealth of information available on the internet, it is hardly surprising to hear a youth ask to go to the learning center to hop on a computer or laptop. Whether it's to check homework assignments, plan a science project, or study for a final exam, the internet is a valuable resource for our youth.



Here are a few guidelines to ensure that the information you and your tutee find on the web is reliable, relevant, and appropriate:

Search engines especially for students:

Search engines designed for younger students are useful tools for tutoring. They screen for inappropriate material and provide appropriate sites for students on topics related to educational and entertainment purposes. Using these sites helps to narrow the scope of hits on a search inquiry. As a result, the student will spend less time reading irrelevant material.

Although some search engines allow you to turn on filters to help filter out adult content, they are not always thorough or accurate. There are several good search engines that are specifically designed for the younger audience, including: Ask Jeeves, OneKey, and Yahoooligans.

Another helpful recourse is The Internet Public Library, www.ipl.org or online encyclopedias. Also, check out your youth's school website. There are often helpful links and

search recommendations on the school's library page.

Common commands for search engines include:

- Addition Sign (+) Adding a + sign before a word means that it **MUST** be included in each site listed. For example: + Florida + taxes
- Subtraction Sign (-) Adding a - sign before a word means that it will **NOT** appear in the sites listed. For example: + Washington -DC
- Asterisks (*) Asterisks can be used for wild-cards in some search engines. For example: Mexic* will look for Mexico, Mexican, Mexicali, etc.

Source: <http://fcit.usf.edu>

REMINDERS:

- For tutoring cancellations, questions, concerns at the Hay (Boys) Campus please contact: Kate Tkacik at kattka@mercyhome.org or (312) 738-9382
- For tutoring at the Girls Campus on Mondays and Wednesdays, please contact Karlee Boike at karboi@mercyhome.org or (773) 298-2914
- For tutoring at the Girls Campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays, please contact Liz Dayton at eliday@mercyhome.org or (773) 298-2913

UPCOMING CANCELLATIONS:

Hay/Boys Campus: 11/25, 11/26, 11/27
Girls Campus: 11/24, 11/25, 11/26, 11/27

The above tutoring sessions have been cancelled for Thanksgiving holiday.