

## **Elizabeth Kelly Library Foundation Literacy Tutoring Program 2022**

### **End of Program Report** **August 19, 2022**

Once again the Elizabeth Kelly Library Foundation Literacy Tutoring Program has completed another successful year. There were three tutors, working from a variety of academic and professional backgrounds, bringing their varied skill sets to the program. Across the three separate two-week intensive tutoring sessions, we tutored a total of 36 students, with some students taking advantage of the open times in later sessions to do a second session.

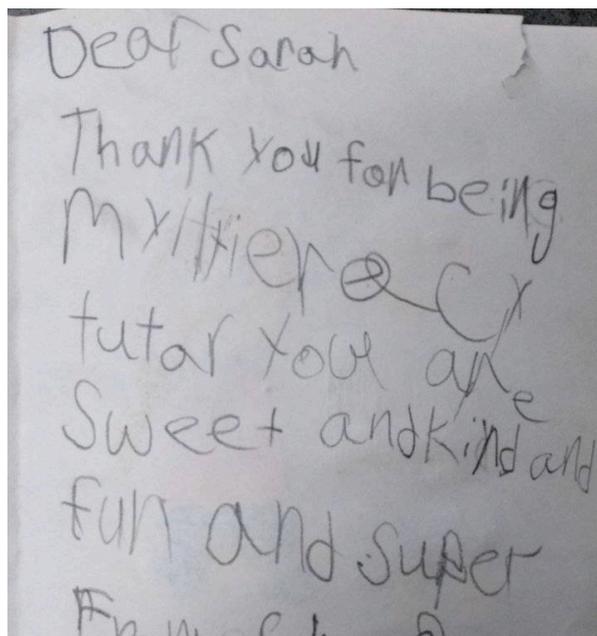
We approached the program this year with the understanding that we were going to be dealing with lagging skills due to the COVID pandemic and resulting school closures. As predicted, we did spend a substantial amount of time reteaching basic skills ranging from simple letter identification and sounds to long vowel awareness (eg. a\_e words). The goal all along was to meet students where they were at and work from there, while simultaneously fostering a positive association with reading in general.

Overall every student demonstrated some level of positive development in their reading skills. Most students demonstrated about half a grade's increase in their phonological awareness, phonemic awareness and decoding skills. It is worth stressing that at first glance half a grade's growth may not seem like much on paper but one has to remember that half a grade is five months covered in a two week period totalling ten hours. Many parents also noted on their feedback forms that they noticed an improvement in their child's attitudes when it came to reading. Comments such as: "it is less of a struggle to get them to start reading" or "\_\_\_\_\_ voluntarily reads on their own now" being common statements from parents on drop off. Given the professional backgrounds of the tutors this year, feedback to parents was able to be specific and address ways in which their children could continue to practice their reading skills after the program was completed.

In summation, every student demonstrated some degree of improvement in their reading skills. Parents were enthusiastic about being able to enroll their children in this kind of program that hones in on their child's specific needs and interests. Some parents of former students even showed their appreciation for the efforts provided for their children in the past upon seeing the Facebook advertisements, the impact of the program being felt years later. All in all we are all grateful for the continued support of the Elizabeth Kelly Library Foundation. As a teacher myself I can only express my gratitude for foundations such as yourselves, who provide the opportunity for students to continue practicing their reading skills over the summer. Anything to help decrease the effects of skill degradation from the summer break, can only be seen as a positive and it is my sincere hope that you continue to provide your support to the summer literacy program at the Mississippi Mills library.

Thank you,

Rob Cole (OCT)  
Literacy Program Coordinator  
Mississippi Mills Public Library



Dear Sarah  
Thank you for being  
Mx/xiex@cx  
tutor you are  
Sweet and kind and  
fun and super  
From e h - a