The PACT Newsletter

Fall 2007 PACT Tutors

Tutors In Photo (Left to Right)
John Bojarski
Kelly Eck
Athina Sant
Ryan Lis
Kristen Budec
Sarah Kunkle
Julie Carnahan
Kellie Campbell
Claire Kessler

Tutors Not In Photo
Lisa Barriger
Caleila Burrell
Elle Cencic
Lois Davis
Sabrina Davis
Caitlin Fischer
Mykol Gardiner
Megan Gianni
Marcelous Jones

John Manning
Leann Militar
Joann Newlin
Carla Placidi
Katie Rosenlund
Courtney Shelestak
Erica Taylor-Jones
Jessica Homyak
Promoting the Love of Reading

School was always easy for Austin. He understands his homework, completes it smoothly, and then hangs out with his friends. His brother, Pete, is envious. He struggles through his homework, so that it takes him twice as long as his brother to complete it, year after year. Both know that intelligence isn’t the issue. Pete’s verbal and analytical abilities are superb. There is a very simple reason for schoolwork being easier for Austin. He is an avid reader. He reads for pleasure every day – novels, magazines, newspapers, and biographies. Because schoolwork is all about reading, he is at home doing it. Pete is very good at basketball. He shoots baskets in his driveway every day. He outperforms his brother, who rarely plays. But Pete does not read for pleasure. He only reads what is required for school. Like basketball, to be a good reader requires practice. The most significant predictor of success in school is the habit of reading for pleasure.

“Reading just for the fun of it was making me a more fluent reader. It was increasing my vocabulary, exposing me to a wealth of experiences outside of my own little world, and stimulating my imagination.”

-Dr. Ellen Ashburn

Dr. Ellen M. Ashburn, says in her article The Importance of Reading for Pleasure, “Reading just for the fun of it was making me a more fluent reader. It was increasing my vocabulary, exposing me to a wealth of experiences outside of my own little world, and stimulating my imagination. It was stretching my attention span, allowing me to empathize with others, and often changing my negative opinions to positive ones.” Mary Leonhardt, a veteran English teacher, emphasized helping students find books they love based on their interests. She pointed out the importance of reading series books and finding books by the same author.

“The top readers are avid readers, the students who are always reading books of their own choice, above and beyond the requirements of any high school course. It doesn’t seem to matter very much what they read, although over their years of reading they tend to gravitate to more complex authors and books.”

Excerpt from “Promoting the Love of Reading” by Cheryl Feuer Gedzelman, MA.

For full article access http://www.tutoringforsuccess.com/promotinglovereading.html
Tutor Story

I am a second year journalism student and this is my second year working with the PACT program. I started working with the program in my first semester here at Duquesne. Although I really enjoy spending time with children, I was a little nervous when I first started. This quickly changed though, once I met the kids. I spent my weekday afternoons working at Wesley Center in the Hill District. It is an after-school program for local kids. I find it to be both very rewarding and enjoyable. I have grown to really care for the kids there and always look forward to seeing them. Whenever the tutors arrive, the kids often come running with smiles and hugs. I typically work with second and third grade girls. First we work together to finish their homework. If there is any time left over, we may play some games or read books. On Saturday’s, I work with a middle-school student. She is willing and eager to work and learn. I enjoy working with her because it gives me an opportunity to teach her about higher education and encourage her to go on to college after high school. I am proud to be a part of the PACT program and to be able to be involved in these children’s lives and education. I feel that the program benefits me as a person as well. I would most definitely encourage other students to become involved in the PACT program because it is an extremely positive experience.

“Tutor Julie Carnahan”

Tuttee Story

I am a second grade student at Weil ALA and I am 8 years old. I am a tutee of the PACT program and my tutor is Julie Carnahan. I enjoy being Julie’s tutee because we have fun together and we get to play games when I am done with my homework.. I love when Julie comes to my school because she helps me learn and I love learning. When I grow up I want to be a model. I want to be a model because models make lots of money. I also want to be a model because they get to wear high heels all the time and they are tall. I hope Julie will continue to help me in school because I want to be smart when I grown up and with Julies help I can.

“Tuttee LaDayju Robinson”

“I enjoy being Julie’s tutee because we have fun together and we get to play games when I am done with my homework.”

“Tuttee LaDayju Robinson”

“Tutor Julie Carnahan”

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“Tutor Julie Carnahan”
The Saturday PACT Program and Credits

Saturday PACT is a tutorial assistance program that seeks to enhance the academic achievement of elementary, middle, and high school students in the Pittsburgh area. Students are tutored in reading, math, science, computers, and the languages. They also receive help with researching and writing papers via the computer. Tutees are recommended by school principals or school counselors and are selected based on their willingness to participate.

Saturday PACT takes place on Duquesne University’s campus, and is staffed by Duquesne University students as tutors and aided by Duquesne University staff.

Who do I contact for more information?
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What is PACT?

Project for Academic Coaching Through Tutoring (PACT) began in 1990 as a community outreach and service learning project of the Duquesne University’s Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center. Organized to provide after-school and Saturday morning tutoring for children residing in the Hill District community, the project was expanded in 1997 when an infusion of federal funds allowed the inclusion of in-school and after-school tutoring throughout Pittsburgh and surrounding communities.

Duquesne students serve as PACT tutors and are noted for their commitment to helping the children who have come to them for learning support. They serve for course credit, as volunteers and as college work-study recipients.

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Editor Jeff Meader

Editor of the PACT newsletter/Photographer: Jeff Meader