The BUILD monthly newsletter informs tutors about what is happening at BUILD. It includes BUILD events, announcements, and an activity of the month. We hope everyone enjoys it!

- Your BUILD graduate coordinators
  Cami, Crystal, and Jenn

OCTOBER CHALLENGE
Did you know that October is College Month in Boston Public Schools? The city is calling for educators to provide activities and resources for students this month to emphasize the importance of higher education and to discuss ways to make that dream a reality for children in our community. We challenge each one of you to think of ways in which you can support this mission. We would love for you to plan an activity at your next P&D meeting to implement at your site.

FALL WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
We have some exciting workshops available this semester. Please come SIGN UP at the BUILD office for the workshops described below. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the time sheet room. All workshops will be held in room 305 (the Conference Room on the 3rd floor of 621 Commonwealth Ave., same floor as the BUILD office). Please note the start times of individual workshops. Remember you are required to attend two workshops a semester as a BUILD tutor. Many of you have already attended the All Tutor Training, which counts as one, so you only have to attend one more! If you missed that training, then you need to attend two. Plan now for which ones you will be attending, and sign up soon!

I. READING MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH STUDENTS
Presented by Cami Condie, Graduate Coordinator
Wednesday, November 4 at 7:15pm
Monday, November 9 at 7:15pm
Wednesday, December 4 at 4:00pm

Description: This workshop will help you learn effective ways to read with students. Specifically, we will be discussing ways to prompt students to figure out unknown words and to think more deeply about the text.
II. MEANINGFUL LITERACY ACTIVITIES  
Presented by Crystal Campbell, Graduate Coordinator  
Thursday, November 5 at 7:15pm  
Saturday, November 7 at 11:00am  
Thursday, November 19 at 7:15pm  

**Description:** Attend this workshop to explore the BUILD resources that are available to you and to discuss engaging games to use with your students. Bring any questions or ideas that you may have about how to make learning more fun!

III. THE ART OF QUESTIONING: ENGAGING STUDENTS IN HIGHER ORDER THINKING  
Presented by Jenn Orlin, Graduate Coordinator  
Thursday, November 12 at 7:15pm  
Tuesday, November 17 at 12:30pm  
Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00pm  

**Description:** Learn about “levels of questioning” and how you can engage your students in higher order thinking, or thinking that goes beyond the basic recall of facts. Students of all achievement levels should be challenged with questions that inspire them to think critically and connect with the material. Employing some of these techniques will make your tutoring sessions more worthwhile – and a lot more fun!

**TUTOR OF THE MONTH**  
In the newsletter, we nominate a tutor of the month. We love to recognize those of you who are extremely dedicated to BUILD and your students. Keep up the good work and perhaps we will see your name here!

**REMINDERS**  
To make online timesheets stress-free and effective for everyone, we need you to submit timesheets on time. Remember, earlier is always better. Please adhere to your site’s deadlines for turning in timesheets and weekly reports. If you fail to turn in a weekly report, your lead tutor should not be approving your timesheet.

**TIME SHEET ERRORS**  
If you enter hours incorrectly or need to make changes after Sunday night at midnight, please email or call your lead tutors directly. They can make the appropriate changes.
SITE UPDATES

BMC

At the BMC, we have 11 tutors reading with children in the waiting room and providing encouragement for the children and models of good reading strategies for the parents. Tutors have also been helping kids choose books to take home and read to their siblings or with their parents.

CHELSEA

Because of a long delay in getting the site started, the wonderful Chelsea tutors have been reassigned for this semester to Hurley, Winship, and Tobin IS. The graduate coordinators appreciate their flexibility and patience.

EDISON

The Edison After School Program is a new program that opened this fall, and it is quickly establishing a great reputation. There are currently 4 staff members and 13 BUILD tutors at the site who aim to improve the children's literacy and confidence while promoting a fun, positive atmosphere for learning. This month, a substantial number of students have improved their reading skills and writing skills by completing literacy packets compiled by the staff and through educational games such as Jingo, an adaptation of Bingo with descriptions, pictures, and terms related to healthy foods and healthy eating.

ELC

We are all so excited to be back at the ELC; this year there are 11 tutors working with approximately 180 children in 12 classrooms. As always, we are trying to make literacy fun and relevant for the students, who range in age from 3 to 7. We have been talking a lot about animals lately because the school recently took a field trip to the zoo. We are also starting to read more and more books about Fall and do activities that concern the changing weather. As the year continues, we will strive to implement more literacy activities and take full advantage of the BUILD library and the resources available to us at the ELC.

FARRAGUT

This year we have expanded from two tutors to seven serving at Farragut. The school has also hired a number of new faculty and staff including a new principal, Dr. Burnett, and our new site contact, Erica. The teachers we are working with are very appreciative of the tutors' presence in the classrooms and we are looking forward to a great school year.
HURLEY

We are so excited to have Hurley Elementary as the newest addition to the BUILD program. We have 20 tutors total for the YMCA after-school program. The school is a two-way language elementary, meaning that the children are taught in both English and Spanish.

JACKSON-MANN

Because CORIs took several weeks to process, the BUILD tutors experienced some unfortunate delays starting at the site. However, we are happy to announce that, as of last week, almost everyone has started work! There are 6 returning tutors at the site, including Lead Tutors Billy and Priscilla, and 9 new tutors.

MASON IS

This year at Mason IS, we have 2 returning tutors and 8 new tutors! This is the most number of tutors we have ever had at Mason! It has been exciting as well for the teachers and students at Mason to receive help from all these tutors. We are looking forward to a great year seeing children learn and grow!

MASON AS

This year at Mason AS we have 18 tutors! It is a huge increase from last year and we are very excited to be able to focus on one-on-one tutoring. All of our new tutors are getting to know the students while our returning tutors continue to build their relationships with students from last year. Our site coordinator has been very helpful and arranged a host of activities for BUILD tutors this year. We are all looking forward to a wonderful and productive school year.

TOBIN IS

This year at Tobin IS we have ten tutors. Each tutor is working in a different classroom, covering two K2 classrooms, three 1st grade classrooms, and three 2nd grade classrooms. There is a new site contact for the Tobin IS program this year and we continue to work with Tobin's principal, Cheryl Harris. The activities each tutor does with students varies depending on the grade level and individual teachers they are working with. Some BUILD tutors are working with small groups of students using intervention techniques and activities, while others are assisting with areas such as literacy centers and partner reading.

TOBIN AS

At the Tobin After-School program this year we have 14 tutors, giving us more opportunities for 1 on 1 time with the kids. There are about 30 kids in our program, which is the largest at the school. We also tutor 5 days a week whereas most of the
other programs run only Mon.-Thurs. The CityYear program at Tobin has expanded this year, which means that BUILD and CityYear each have their own group of kids instead of shifting students between the two programs. This creates a situation of more stability where one tutor can work with the same kids several days a week.

TROTTER IS

Everything is going well at Trotter In School. Thus far, we have been working with younger students on poetry and high frequency word activities provided by the school.

TROTTER AS

Our tutors are joining the students in the classrooms during which we do poetry workshops with individual students. During the after-school portion, we work one-on-one with the students assisting with homework as well as the new clubs that have been introduced this year. Long-term goals include building confidence in reading and improving vocabulary in these students.

WINSHIP

Winship is off to a great start! Our site has nearly tripled since last year and we now have 18 tutors! Maggie and Anna joined Sam as lead tutors. Julie returned to Winship as site coordinator. The students are extremely happy to have us back and love that they have so much more interaction with tutors now that there are so many of us! Winship continues to be an in-school and after-school program serving students from kindergarten to fifth grade.

ACTIVITY OF THE MONTH

Create a Group Poem

This month's activity is from ReadBoston's Community Literacy Kit in the BUILD library.

Topic and Activity “Where we live”
Grade Range: 2-5
Materials: Paper, pens, examples of poems

Activity: Create a poem together

1. Poetry is a great way for a group to come together and write.

   • Begin with a group discussion. Possible prompts include: “Share one thing you like about where you live.” Or, “Think about the kinds of people, places, or things that are in your neighborhood.” “What is unique or special about where you live?”
Read some of the attached poems about “Community” to inspire students before they begin to write.

- Title the group poem “Where we live,” and divide the students into groups to work on different parts of “Where we live.” Some of the groups could focus on family, family, friends, streets, favorite parks, secret get-away-places, etc. Be creative and ask the students for additional categories. Ask students to write down their “first thoughts,” when they think about their category. These do not have to be in complete sentences – they can be words, phrases, sounds, feelings, memories, associations, etc.

- Bring the group together. Ask each group to share at least one of their ideas, and write it down on chart paper. Move on to the next group. Continue around the room, writing down what is heard from all the groups. You will have created a “Community Poem.”

Related Activities:

2. Create a Community Word Box. Have students decorate a shoebox with community images. Place it in an accessible location. Ask students to put in words that related to their community. This is your community word box.

3. Create an acrostic poem using the name of your program’s street. You can also use the name of your community or town (Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, etc). Write the word vertically on paper. Then explain to students that you must write a word that is characteristic of the street or neighborhood next to each letter of the word.

    Diverse
    Ocean Side
    Roller Skating
    Chez Vous
    Historical
    Educational
    Soulful
    Terrific food
    Entertainment
    ReadBoston