



Savannah - Chatham County
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**L.O.V.E.
M E N T O R S**

Helping
Children
Learn

www.lovementors.org

December, 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Laura Wehrle
Officer & School Liaison

A hallmark of the holiday season is to reflect on the gifts in our lives. All of you are tremendous gifts to so many children in this city and to each other as you share your experiences to help others become better mentors. I am so grateful to work with you and this special organization. I wish you, your students and your families the very warmest, merriest holiday season. Thank you.

This season is also a time for new goals and opportunities. We have a big one for L.O.V.E. Our key strategic initiative this year is TRAINING. This is the #1 suggestion our mentors give us to improve.

On page 2 you can read about the exciting training plan. Please send us your ideas and feedback - we will ensure it is shared across all mentors now and in

**Happy
Holidays!**

the future!! We can collectively take our mentoring skills to a whole new level --

Happy New Year!

Laura

Laura Wehrle
Officer & School Liaison



Last day of school
School starts
Mentoring begins

December 20
January 7
January 13

INTRODUCING OUR MENTOR TRAINING TEAM

The Training Team is creating a perpetual repository of training material that will benefit our current mentors and all those to follow, selected from a variety of resources. We want to create a *dynamic library* of materials with regular new additions based upon *your* feedback and needs.

This evolving library of training tools will be in one place -- our L.O.V.E. Mentors website under "Mentor Tools" <https://www.lovementors.org/resources>. While this website is not yet complete, we wanted to share a preview to whet your appetite and to gather any feedback while we are still in development.

The materials that are in your L.O.V.E. Mentors binders can be found there in addition to:

- Training Newsletters (current and previous) which include a wealth of helpful tips,
- Links to video resources for helpful training ideas and full lessons that can be shared with your student,
- Links to written materials and exercises that may be beneficial on a given topic,
- Insights (written and video format) from L.O.V.E. Mentors eager to share their wealth of information from their own experiences,

The information above will be broken down for easy access by:

- Subject - Reading, Writing, Math, Science, History, and General (for

useful information supporting your overall mentoring experience),

- Applicable grade level,
- Specific topics (e.g. *How do I help a struggling reader?*) to allow our mentors to quickly find the materials to respond to the needs of their student,

Your feedback to the materials will help identify the topics we need to address. On the website, you will be able to provide us with an indication of whether the materials were useful, or not, so we can pull from the most effective and impactful sources. You will also be able to help us prioritize the evolution of our training tools by informing us where there may be gaps in our materials -- all with a click of a button on the new website.



With your help we will continue to build a robust catalog of resources to help enhance your engagements with your students. If there are any other ideas or information about L.O.V.E. Mentors Training, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at lovementorsinc.training@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Susan O'Connor Horne, Catherine Ruhl, and Samantha Lambert



TIPS FOR MENTORS

All of our schools have a special L.O.V.E. area where we have a wide array of supplies for mentors to use. These include books for all level of readers, flash cards, dice, word games, phonics books, pencils and crayons. These are items that you can use to make your sessions more interesting and appealing to a fidgety student.

BOOK FAIR FEATURES SPEAKER MELISSA EVANS

Title I Family and Community Relations Specialist at Juliette Gordon Low Elementary

Melissa Evans shared her insight into the Title I students that we serve. She told us the most important thing we can do is encourage the children to read. Studies show that students who read 20 minutes a day, read 1,800,000 words in a year and score at the 90% level in tests. Students who read 1 minute a day, read only 8,000 words in a year and score at the 10% level.

She gave mentors many useful suggestions as to how they might help their students.

- Encourage students to read different types of materials to pique their interest. Try non-fiction, graphic novels, newspapers, magazines, even just picture books they can talk about.
- Show them how reading can be enjoyed. Tell them about the books you are reading, your book club, books you read to your own children.
- Ask them questions about a book that makes them think about different ways the story might change. What if the main character was someone else? What if the story happened in a different place? What different ending would they suggest?
- Focus on comprehension, not just fluency. Many students seem to read very well, but actually don't understand what they are reading and don't know the meaning of the words. Ask them questions to foster comprehension.
- Use the "5 finger rule." Open a book in the middle and ask the child to read a page. Every time they see a word they don't know they hold up a finger. If they hold up 1 or 2 fingers, the book is too easy for them. If they hold up 5 fingers, the book is too hard. If they hold up 3 to 4 fingers, the book is about right.
- Write letters back and forth with your student.
- Play word games.



*Melissa Evans
Book Fair Speaker*



Many thanks to Ginny Pierce who once again provided all the mentors with a wide selection of books they could choose for their students.

L.O.V.E. NEEDS MORE MENTORS

INFORMATION & ORIENTATION MEETING • JANUARY 13 at 4:00 p.m. at SIUMC

Mentors have made a great difference to the success of the students we work with. That is why the schools have asked for more L.O.V.E. mentors. Several schools have created "student waiting lists" for students who need mentors. Help us help them! If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a mentor, please ask them to join you. They are welcome to accompany you on one of your mentoring sessions to see how the process works and can find a lot of information on our website. Encourage them to attend the information and orientation meeting Monday, January 13, 4 o'clock at the Skidaway Island United Methodist Church.



L.O.V.E. believes that improving a child's education is the foundation for improving quality of life. Classroom teachers have little opportunity to work one-on-one with students. L.O.V.E. provides this benefit to students.

L.O.V.E. Leadership Team For 2019 - 2020

School Liaison-SCCPSLaura Wehrle, Officer
 Mentor Recruiting and Assimilation Dan Malachuk, Officer
 Secretary & Technology Liaison Sam Lambert, Officer
 Treasurer Kevin Dutton, Officer
 Mentor Resources and Training Ginny Pierce
 Publicity and Events Carol Fallon and Denis Healy
 Camp Coordinators..... Callie Ryan and Carol Black
 Training Co-Chairs Susan Horne and Catherine Ruhl
 Director Emeritus Karen Lindholm
 At Large Bill Monroe
 Administrative Support Mike O'Neill and Roy Samras
 Publication Design M. Louise Walters, The Leadership Center

Schools

At the current time, L.O.V.E. Mentors serves 9 Title I schools in the SCCPSS.

SCHOOLS	L.O.V.E. SITE DIRECTOR
Andrea B. Williams	Nancy Boyd Mary Sommer, assistant SD
East Broad/ELC at HE Formey	Debbie Sens Susan Woods
Gadsden	Jan Smart John Brandewie
Haven	Kevin Dutton Susan Horne, assistant SD
Hodge	Nancy Ambler
Isle of Hope	Betsy Hines
Low.....	Ginny Pierce Jane Martin, assistant SD
Pulaski	Ginny Donaldson Jill Corbin, assistant SD
Windsor Forest.....	Sue Burns



**Thank You For
Helping Children Learn**