



<http://www.pcsb.org/tomlinson>

Administrator- Godfrey Watson; Evening Coordinator - Patrick Jennings

A Quarterly Community Newsletter

May 2016

The Tribute

Tomlinson Adult Learning Center

296 Mirror Lake Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
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“Riding to Read” a Success

In the fall of 2015, we were proud to be the recipients of a \$1,000 grant sponsored by **Duke Energy** and the **Pinnellas Education Foundation**. The money was used to purchase discounted bus passes from PSTA for students who would have difficulty coming to school without the additional help. To receive the passes, students needed a note from their teacher, indicating excellent attendance. The theme of energy conservation was a focus for our students as they learned of the many advantages of using a mass transit system from an informational “handout” created by the guidance department. Students were quizzed on the facts they learned and were encouraged to share the information with others.

“Buses...emit 80% less carbon monoxide than a car.”

*-Lawrence J. Hanley
Celebrating Earth Day*

“Riding a bus is 7 times safer than riding in a car.”

*-American Public
Transportation Association*

Aaron Hopewell works on a computer at Tomlinson.



“Teacher Feature”

Liesa Waxman, a GED instructor, came to Tomlinson through a lucky quirk of fate. Her bike riding group included the owner of The Lyceum; he suggested Liesa submit her resume when she mentioned she was job hunting, back in 2013 after arriving here to care for her 87 year-old engineer dad who had retired in St. Pete. Liesa grew up on Long Island, New York, and then spent 17 years teaching Special Education students in Kansas City after earning her Special Ed degree at KU.

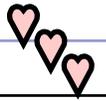
Liesa’s value to Tomlinson was immediately apparent, and she came on board first as a part-time instructor, and now full-time. Liesa spends her free time biking, running, and playing underwater videos for her two beloved cats, Butter and Cricket. She loves the vibrant life of downtown St. Pete and the Mirror Lake area where she lives, and it doesn’t hurt that her “commute” to work is a 2-minute walk from her front door!

Liesa Waxman celebrates Barbara Harris’ recently earned diploma. Kudos to them both!!



LOVE IN EVERY LANGUAGE LOVE

Tomlinson Students and Teachers Celebrate Valentine's Day in Traditional "American Style"



Chocolate candy and flowers are the most popular Valentine's Day gifts in the United States and Tomlinson participated in this tradition in February. Besides enjoying treats during the lunchtime break, everyone contributed in decorating one of the bulletin boards in the main front hallway. The culmination was a delightful array of the word "LOVE" in forty five different languages, written in all different colors and sizes. It was a day of celebration with our Tomlinson family and one to remember.



Jennifer Gamble is a citizen of the world, with a love of travel and adventure, perhaps inspired by a childhood of transitions and adjustments to differing environments. A native of St. Petersburg, she grew up in a close community of caring neighbors and re-delighted her family class-English," and then life in-Francisco, her future teaching

tives. When she moved to upstate New York at age 6, she was astonished and to cycle through the four seasons of New England for the first time. Later, when moved to Manhattan near Columbia University, she was intrigued by her exotic mates at P.S. 125, the children of foreign professors. "I wanted to teach the kids she says, laughing. Later she attended a Catholic boarding school in Virginia studied sociology and English at Benedictine College in Kansas. Her early work cluded stints at the Rockefeller Foundation in NYC and Far West Labs in San an educational think tank. In Haiti in the later 70's, she taught English and met husband. Eventually, St. Pete became her home again and she found her way to ESOL at Tomlinson after a period of teaching high school. Her post-retirement plans include studying art and Spanish—and of course, more travel! Her hand-drawn poster above the door of her classroom sums up Jennifer's mantra: "I Touch The World. The World Touches Me. I Teach ESOL."



Bidding a Fond Farewell to our Retirees

Everybody knows **Vernon Houghbrook**, our Head Plant Operator—but did you know he has been at Tomlinson longer than anyone else here, since he first arrived in 1985? He has worked under two previous administrators prior to the arrival of Mr. Godfrey Watson, our current Administrator. Finally retiring after working his way up from plant operator to night foreman and then to his current position, Vernon is also a certified corrections officer and deputy who worked for two years at the sheriff's office, ("That's a young man's job!" according to Vernon) and still works weekends as a security officer at the dog track! Where do you get all that energy, Vernon? A native of St. Pete, Vernon and his wife have raised 3 boys and now have 5 grandchildren, who will all be happy to see more of him when he "hangs up his hat" in June. He has loved being at Tomlinson, where the family atmosphere is so welcoming to staff and students, alike. Vernon is involved in so many day-to-day operations, from fixing computers on the "fritz," to delivering boxes of supplies to waiting teachers and in his spare time, he might be bailing out water from a storeroom flood. His most unusual task to date was the time he was hailed to the rescue with the message, "Vernon, snake on the second floor!" A student's pet snake had escaped from her purse and, of course, it was Vernon's job to restore order. Snake and student were reunited...all in a day's work for Vernon. His widely varied skills and calm, cheerful presence will be sorely missed! The Tomlinson Family wishes them both all the best in their next adventures.

