



Tutor.com, the Homework Hotline

KCLS is making sure that students throughout King County are receiving the homework help they need, whether they can make it in to the library or not. That is why KCLS has been partnering with Tutor.com for more than 10 years, to assist students of all ages in their quest for learning.

Tutor.com is a free service to K-12 students, college students and even adult learners in both English and Spanish. The program offers free one-on-one tutoring in wide range of subjects, even AP math and foreign languages. KCLS patrons can work one-on-one with a Tutor.com instructor every day from 2pm to midnight, which means students can access the help they need even when our physical libraries are closed.

With the help of funding from the KCLS Foundation, Tutor.com has grown into an invaluable resource. In 2014, more than 53,000 live one-on-one sessions were conducted by KCLS with an average use of 4,400 users per month. 5 hours of help per month is valued at \$180, a cost many would not be able to afford. Your donations to the KCLS Foundation ensure this program remains available, so that students can not only survive school but really thrive.

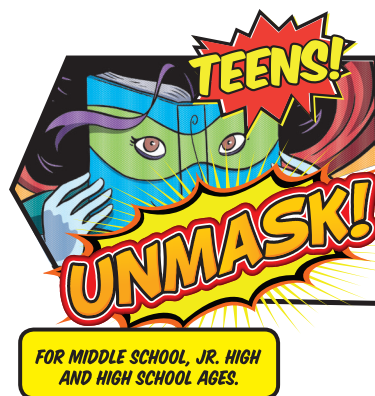
The students we asked had some wonderful things to say about this program. One 6th grader said "Tutor.com is helping me to complete my homework assignments, improve my grades and making me confident about my school work. I love Tutor.com."

To learn more about Tutor.com and other resources for students, visit kcls.org/teens/homework.

Books For Kids Supports Summer Learning

Thanks to generous donors like you, more than 6,000 books will be given to kids as part of the KCLS' Summer Learning program. Having books in the home has been proven to:

- Improve a child's reading performance.
- Cause children to read more and for longer lengths of time.
- Produce improved attitudes toward reading and learning.



Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of fun, entertainment and hands-on learning on Friday, June 19, 1-3pm at the Renton Community Center when KCLS kicks off Summer Learning with programs and activities for preschoolers and ages 5 to 12. Build a robot, play Minecraft and other computer games, get information about Summer Learning programs in KCLS libraries—for kids and teens—and libraries that will be offering free summer meal sites.



You can be a champion for libraries by supporting the KCLS Foundation in The Seattle Foundation's fifth annual GiveBIG on May 5! Visit www.seattlefoundation.org/givebig or call our office at 425.369.3448 to learn more.



Literary Lions Gala attendees having fun.



Emcee Nancy Pearl with the 2015 Literary Lions.



KCLS Foundation Board President, Dr. Rick Taylor, with Ann Patchett.

Guests in "State of Wonder" at 22nd Annual Literary Lions Gala

Ann Patchett, best-selling author of *Bel Canto* and *State of Wonder* was one of the eighteen authors honored at the KCLS Foundation's Literary Lions Gala on March 28. The event raised an extraordinary \$345,000 to benefit the programs and services offered to library patrons including the Let's READ! program. Let's READ! program brings the library to life in parks and community centers—even apartment complexes. "The KCLS Foundation and its donors are committed to helping kids across the system succeed. We were delighted to have had more than 650 gala guests join in this effort," remarked Gala Co-Chair Shari Wetherby.

Everyone's favorite librarian, Nancy Pearl, emceed the gala program and introduced the audience to this year's Literary Lions, which included best-selling authors Daniel James Brown, who wrote *The Boys in the Boat*, and Kristin Hannah, the author of *The Nightingale*.

Ann Patchett's keynote address echoed the themes of the evening about the importance of libraries in creating and sustaining a thriving community. "I grew up with the understanding if you can form the question 'Whose responsibility is it?' Then it is yours... *Do you want to live in a city, a county, a state, a country where people can get full access to information? Support your public library.*"

The capacity crowd was inspired not only by Ann's remarks but by a generous group of donors who offered to double every gift of \$300 or more made at the event. "It is amazing how effective the challenge match was in our fundraising effort. KCLS received more than 330 gifts—more than at any previous Gala. "We are so grateful to those who stepped up and presented this challenge," said event Co-Chair Michelle Rubesch. Challenge Match donors included Joanna and Christoph Bichsel, Ann and Jim Ewel, Kari Glover and Thad Alston, Safeco Insurance, Rob and Kathleen Spitzer, Rick and Frances Taylor, Bruce and Katy Titcomb, Julie and Leonard Vaughn, Jim Wigfall, and The Wissner-Slivka Foundation.

Additional thanks to the 2015 Literary Lions Gala Best-Seller and Starred Review Sponsors: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bellevue Endodontic Associates, The Boeing Company, Kari Glover and Thad Alston, Pam Martin and Robert Livingston, Kim and Eric Moen, Puget Sound Energy, Michelle and Ian Rubesch, and Berta Seltzer.

Ann Patchett is reading:

- Hector Tobar's *Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle that Set Them Free*
- Sally Mann's *Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs*
- Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*
- Ros Chast's *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant*
- Kelly Link's *Get in Trouble*
- Richard Price's *The Whites*
- David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas*
- David Shafer's *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot*



Carolina Guerra with her new book at a Let's READ! event in 2014.

Meet a Literary Lion at an Author Salon This Summer

Is it your dream to spend an evening with an inspiring Northwest author or literary personality? Now is your chance! A limited number of tickets to several amazing Author Salons are now available for purchase. Salons bring accomplished writers such as Ruth Ozeki, Garth Stein, Ken Jennings, and J.A. Jance, together with small groups to chat about books and writing over a sumptuous meal in a unique venue. Limited in size, Author Salons give you the opportunity to get up close and personal with a renowned Northwest author. The ticket price includes a copy of the author's most recent work as well as a chance to have the book signed by the author.

Funds raised from the sale of Author Salon tickets will help expand access to literacy and lifelong learning programs in your community library or throughout the King County Library System.

Author Salons Available!

Check your calendar to see if you can attend one of these exclusive events.

To learn more or purchase your tickets online visit www.kcls.org/literarylions.

Garth Stein

May 20, 2015 | 6-8pm | \$150
The Ruins, Downtown Seattle

Ruth Ozeki and Meeru Dhalwala

May 28, 2015 | 6-8pm | \$200
The Slivka Home, Clyde Hill

Debra Prinzing and Liz Browning

June 6, 2015 | 4-6pm | \$100
Bellevue Botanical Gardens

Maxime Bilet

June 11, 2015 | 6-9pm | \$200
Imagine Food, Downtown Seattle

Timothy Schaffert

June 18, 2015 | 6-8pm | \$150
J. Bookwalter Winery, Woodinville

J.A. Jance

July 12, 2015 | 4-6pm | \$150
The Jance Home, Bellevue



Planned Giving donors Carol and Tal Godding.

Literary Legends: Carol and Tal Godding

"I don't think I have any kind of compelling story to tell, I just want to give back to organizations which do an excellent job," says Carol Godding, a planned giving donor to KCLS Foundation.

Carol and her husband Tal are both retired Boeing employees with strong ties to the Sammamish community and to reading. Her 15 years as a KCLS outreach volunteer has shown her the true value of the services KCLS offers inside and outside the walls of the library.

A self-described "personal book shopper," Carol enjoys the challenge of matching books to the individual patron's personality and interests and has delivered 2,000 books and audio books in the last 20 months.

Her favorite scene at the library is that of a small child standing on a step-stool to reach the counter and check out his library books. *"It's all about lifelong learning. We learn at school, and we learn at work. When not working or in school, we learn by reading, traveling or volunteering. We learn at the library."*

Carol and Tal are world travelers who will tell you that they "forgot" to have kids. The Goddings are in a unique place to choose their legacy and they are choosing the KCLS Foundation. She may not believe she has a compelling story to tell, but Carol and Tal's story is just that: making time for your passion in your life and finding enjoyment in helping others. Nothing is more compelling.

If you are interested in donating to KCLS Foundation or leaving a literary legacy for future generations, please contact Cindy Sharek, Director of Major and Planned Gifts, at cjsharek@kcls.org or 425.369.3225.

Five Questions for New KCLS Director Gary Wasdin

This past January King County Library System welcomed Gary Wasdin as the new Director of Libraries. Soon after, he was in the local news and industry spotlight answering questions about his new position, his move to the Pacific Northwest from Omaha, and what's in store for KCLS under his leadership. The following Q & A was adapted from his recent interviews with the *Mercer Island Reporter* and *Library Journal* from February 2015.

What's the most important element of a community library?

The most important thing for any library is that it is a welcoming environment to everyone. Every day more than 30,000 people of all ages walk through the doors of our 48 libraries. They come for many reasons—to explore our collection, use a computer, attend a program or story time, find a quiet corner to study, or to join a meeting or community gathering.

What are your goals for KCLS?

My goals are the same as the library system's goals: to provide collections and services that meet the needs of our communities, to promote the library and encourage everyone to take advantage of our great resources, to develop and maintain strong relationships with other organizations to help us strengthen our community, to recruit and develop the very best staff—ensuring a reputation for service excellence throughout the county, to serve as responsible stewards of public funds that are invested in our libraries—ensuring that our resources are used efficiently and appropriately, and to make the best use of technological advances that allow us to improve and enhance library services and to provide and maintain outstanding library spaces.

The [KCLS] system is four times as big as Omaha's. That must be a lot to take in so quickly, right?

I'm trying to spend a little time in each of the 48 libraries, just to see the space and the community and figure out how it fits in, to meet the staff there—at least let them get a sense of me. For me the biggest challenge is the geography. The communities are so distinct and so different—just getting to know them, what their interests are, what their needs are, and their expectations.



New KCLS Director, Gary Wasdin visiting the Maple Valley Library.

Do you think technology will change the way people use libraries, and if so, how?

Technology has already dramatically changed the way people use libraries. Access to computers and the Internet is now a core service that we provide to our community. When you visit any of our libraries, you are likely to see most or all of the computers in use, as well as individuals working on their own laptops using KCLS Wi-Fi connections. Others who have access to the internet at home or work are using KCLS resources in great numbers as well, without ever stepping foot in our buildings. The KCLS eBook collection continues to grow, and the number of eBooks borrowed has grown to 2.3 million.

Is it exciting to come to KCLS, where a lot of that innovation is in place already?

It's great—we've got such a tech-savvy population. Although the world changes so fast. It's a luxury to step in and find it exists, but it also means that we're already at a point of looking at what's next, that along with it comes high expectations. We now have to shift gears and think about what's on our horizon, what's next for us.