



Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.

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## LITERACY NASSAU'S PATHWAYS TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BEGINS

(by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

In the middle of December, amidst the craziness of the holiday season, I was thrilled to launch our new Pathways program! The purpose of this program is to enable educators to have access to Orton-Gillingham certification from the comfort of their own homes. The program is designed to offer an all-inclusive, reasonably-priced pathway to Orton-Gillingham certification at any level. Trainees are provided with the complete support of an OGA Fellow (me!) who supplies the coursework, observations, personal guidance and mentoring to help them manage the application requirements and process for whichever level they choose. Literacy Nassau can also assist with

finding a suitable practicum student if the trainee is unable to find one on his/her own.

The Pathways to Certification model is designed like a membership. Each trainee has complete access to all coursework, mentoring and 24/7 support for as long as they need to complete the application process. The program launched in mid-December with three active cohorts: one weekend-based Certified class, one Tuesday night Associate level class, and one Thursday morning Associate level class. More courses are already being planned for the future. Participants are really enjoying the fact that the classes are shorter in length than traditional OG coursework. Our typical course runs for a full week in the summer and then operates on weekends

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

### Orton-Gillingham Academy Levels of Certification



## FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

Over the holidays, my family and I took a much needed trip down to Florida! It was our first time visiting Disney World as a family of four, and after 5 days of Disney, we went to the Florida Keys to unwind. While on vacation, I was fortunate enough to visit Ernest Hemingway's home in Key West. I learned all about his life, his relationships, and his struggles with mental health. It was fascinating, and perhaps the most exciting part was that Haley wanted to come with me on the tour, because she too has an appreciation for the literary world! We bought a special edition of *The Old Man and the Sea* to commemorate our visit. That book is close to me because it is a beautiful depiction of the enduring spirit of hope, which I believe is the cornerstone of humanity. It's a timely reminder as we begin a new year.

Hope is all around us.



Top photo: Haley and I visiting Hemingway's house  
 Bottom: Hemingway's writing studio.

## OG COHORT TRAINING

(by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

Our OG trainees have been hard at work. In addition to meeting with their practicum students three times a week, they also attended a full day Saturday training in December and another in January.

In December, we focused on fluency strategies such as echo reading where the tutor models reading a sentence with appropriate rate and prosody and the student echoes it back to build their own fluency skills. Fluency is an important aspect of teaching reading because a slow rate or robot-like reading negatively impacts a student's ability to comprehend the text.

I also started explaining the OGA application process to the trainees, walked them through the analysis of formal assessments and how to write a student profile. They all had the opportunity to review their own student's assessments and begin to write their profiles. Then they completed them for homework. I am currently in the process of reviewing them and providing them with feedback.

In January, our training covered vocabulary instruction and ways to incorporate more vocabulary into the OG lesson. Vocabulary is important because if a student doesn't know the meaning of the words, they will struggle to understand the passage/story. We also talked about the importance of grammar instruction, reviewed the parts of speech and played some fun sentence building games that they can do with their students. We ended off the day talking about reading comprehension and various strategies to help support students' ability to understand what they read. Trainees worked in pairs to create a lesson using some of the comprehension strategies that were introduced that day.

This is such a dedicated group of OG trainees who are willing to come out on the weekends, focus on new material, and plan how to individualize the strategies for their students. It was wonderful to hear all the success stories they had to share and to see all the progress their students have already made this school year.

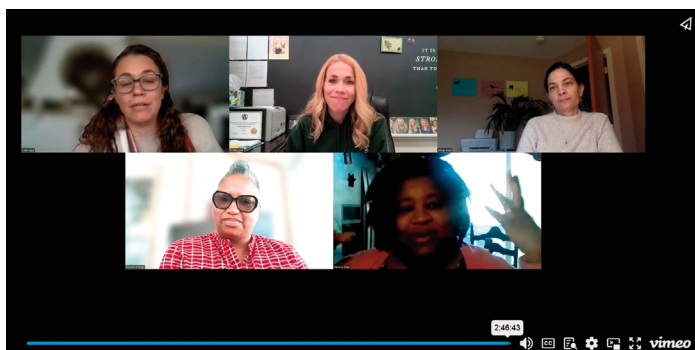
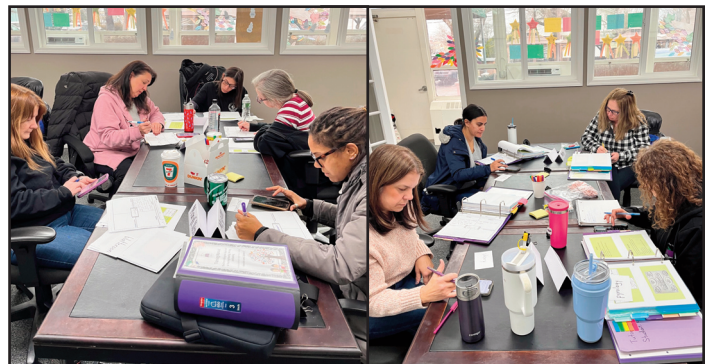


## LN'S PATHWAYS TO CERTIFICATION (CONTINUED)

throughout the year; this new model enables participants to engage in a series of 19 mini-sessions, which feels more like a graduate-level program than an intensive training model. (It's the same amount of time overall, but the individual classes are shorter in length and higher in frequency, which makes them feel easier to manage on a weekly basis.)

Of course, Literacy Nassau will continue its traditional model of on-site training and tutoring, but this new program enables us to reach those who would not be able to commit to the travel component of being here for tutoring every week. We are serving trainees who live as close as Long Beach and as far away as Australia! As one trainee said, "I'm so grateful to be part of the Pathways program. There's just no way I would be able to find this kind of training in my town."

We look forward to continuing to grow our organization in accordance with our mission of making literacy services accessible to all. By training and certifying teachers in cohorts all year long, our roots permeate deeper into the vast soil of education locally and our reach expands exponentially.



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Orton-Gillingham is a powerful approach to teaching reading and spelling that engages multiple pathways in the brain to help students learn with success. It is widely considered the gold standard of instruction for students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities.

We are currently accepting applications for our OG training program. The live initial 35-hour training will be held from 8/18 - 8/22. The 100-hour practicum runs through the school year and there are five (5) additional training dates. All sessions are held in-person at our office in Wantagh.

**Space in this cohort is limited and competitive.  
To learn more go to:  
[www.literacynassau.org/liveogtraining](http://www.literacynassau.org/liveogtraining)**

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## SATURDAY ENGLISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

(by Shamika Lilavois, Saturday Program Coordinator)

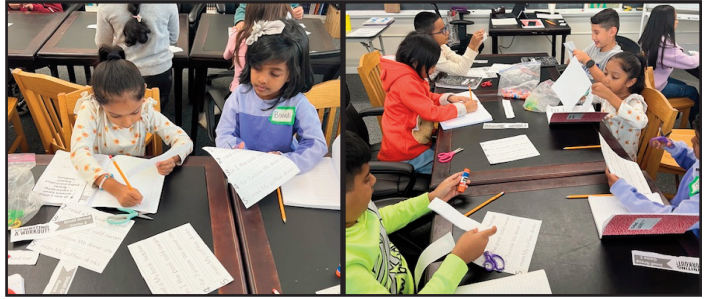
Our students have been focusing on building confidence in conversations, expanding vocabulary, and also writing grammatically correct sentences.

Each Saturday we begin with an engaging activity called Four Corners. A question is read aloud, and students demonstrate their understanding by moving to one of the four corners of the room, each representing a specific answer. Once in their chosen corner, students collaborate with their group to discuss their reasoning.

Following this interactive session, the focus shifts to vocabulary development. Students watch a video introducing new words and participate in a game to reinforce their understanding. They practice using these words in complete sentences, emphasizing proper usage and pronunciation.

The class then transitions to writing, where students focus on constructing grammatically correct sentences. Lessons currently center on identifying and using nouns, verbs, and adjectives, with particular attention to capitalization, sentence structure, and punctuation.

Students participate in a hands-on activity cutting out grammatically incorrect sentences and rewrite them correctly. This exercise helps reinforce their understanding of proper grammar, sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation, while also improving their editing and writing skills.



After learning about the subject (who or what) and the predicate (what they did), students applied their knowledge by writing their own sentences. They ensured each sentence included all the components of a proper sentence, focusing on clarity, structure, and grammatical accuracy.



Students engage in a What's Missing Tic-Tac-Toe activity designed to reinforce key writing skills. Through this interactive game, they practice identifying and correcting errors in sentence spacing, capitalization, subject-predicate structure, and punctuation.



**Thank you for funding our Saturday English Immersion Program for Kids.**

GURU  KRUPA  
Foundation Inc



### Warm Birthday Wishes To Our Tutors Celebrating In January!

Leslie Arluck – Mildred Aronson – Jonathan Baker  
Debbie Buglisi – Abigail Chanis – Carla DePasquale  
Frank Dorf – Keith Drayer – Connie Egelman  
Josephine Feldman – Marleen Fenton – Samantha Gordon  
Latoyra Graves – Mary Howley – Mara Jacobowitz  
Pamela Jahn – Ruthann Kennedy – Jan Kerr – Carol Kessler  
Emma LaPrince – David Leibenhaut – Rose Lowe  
Kiana Mahabadi – Michelle Malone – Michael Marrin  
Roseann Martz – Marcia Mayer – Christine Merola  
Eileen Morgan – Harriet Morosoff – Marion Polizzi  
Honey Prager – Juan Quijano – Alice Scharf – Patricia Searby  
Julie Seghrouchni – Paula Silverman – Addy Skolnick  
Janet Trajbar – Pamela Vasquez – Karen Vermut  
Melva Victorino – Nina Wachsmann – Kourtnee Wallace  
Kailey White – Steven Windwer – Gerard Wisla



### Warm Birthday Wishes To Our Tutors Celebrating In February!

Jacqui Alves – Linda Antin – Margaret Barton  
Jodi Batan-Seegull – Linda Bleck – Joan Capello  
Lisa Dalton – Lynne Ferraro – Deanna Glassman  
Karen Grimes – Ellen Gross – Bob Hanna – Bernie Hirschhorn  
Judy Hoffman – Pamela Jackson-Ware – Sylvia Jorisch  
Christina Kachinoski – Radha Khandelwal – Delia King  
Susan Laufer – Nicole Maas – Terri Mangum – Jessica Merkel  
Carolyn Miller – Debbie Mincer – Ephifany Morillo  
Doreen Pechman – Cathy Perini – Anand Persaud  
Joan Ratty – Anita Schwartz – Pamela Shampam  
Margaret Sherman – Ethell Smith – Julie Vetter  
Mary-Rose Waldron





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February 17, 2025

★ ★ ★ **HAPPY** ★ ★ ★  
**PRESIDENTS**  
★ **DAY** ★

The office will be closed  
on this day and also  
Saturday, February 22nd.



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