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LITERACY
N A S S A U

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

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MOTIVATING ADULT LEARNERS

(by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

I recently attended a webinar provided by Literacy New York and led by Adam Springwater. Adam's presentation focused on motivation and engagement of adult learners. It was a very interesting presentation; some of my big take-aways are as follows:

- Importance of goal setting and creating plans: "A goal without a plan is just a wish." Goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and timely. Teachers/Case Managers should listen more than they talk in the first 15 minutes of conversation with students. Students should tell you what they need and you will help them create goals from there.

- Change is hard! Don't tell students they have to change; talk to them about making improvements, this is more encouraging and easier to buy into.

- What motivates improvement: trials and immediate needs they have, examples of others who have succeeded, competitions with others, mentors who act as guides and heroes. They look to us as their mentors; we set examples for them.

• Types of motivation:

1. Emotional Shake Motivation: hitting a rock bottom that dramatically impacts your perceptions: fatalistic, no responsibility, entitled, low self-esteem, destructive.

2. Push Motivation: relies on external force, is short-term and negative, requires massive support, "Do this or else..." When you are not there to be their external force, the motivation will decrease.

3. Pull Motivation: relies on internal force and a person's own dreams and passion, uses self-responsibility, self-esteem, and self-awareness. We want to focus on this form of motivation, help students to set goals for themselves and short-term steps needed to accomplish those goals.

- How to find joy and contentment: focus on what you are grateful for, learn about reaping and sowing. Have a plan, focus on the current task; you get back what you put in.

- Attribution Theory: focus on what you can control, not things outside your control.

- Success before challenge: always provide feedback that focuses on what the student did well first, then offer them a suggestion for improvement.

Overall, it was a great presentation and very useful in supporting our adult learners. I placed the slides that were shared from the presentation in our Google folder (in the 1st day/community building folder) if you would like to view them. They also recorded the presentation and are offering it as a password protected Zoom link, so if you are interested in watching it, please email me at KQuijano@literacynassau.org.

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

With spring in full bloom, the month of May brings an often overlooked holiday: Mother's Day. Those of us who are mothers of young kids know that the day is never really for us: if it was, I'd be sent off to a spa for a massage instead of shuttling around from my mother's house to my in-laws, making sure I spend the requisite amount of time with everyone and that I've purchased the right plants, gifts, and cake for the occasion. Still, the day offers a pause - the coffee brought to me in bed by my youngest; the hand-drawn card delivered by my oldest - reminders that everything I do, at the end of the day, is for them.



To all the mothers reading this: I see you. Happy Mother's Day!

Karen 😊

SATURDAY ENGLISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

(submitted by Izabella Katz, Program Manager)

A huge thank you to the Guru Kupa Foundation for his donation to run the Saturday English Immersion Program for Kids. His donations have provided us with the space to be able to provide a multitude of ways to bring ESL instruction to kids in the community inside and outside! This will be the third year that students get to experience enrichment and improve their speaking and writing skills. Recently, students got to learn outside in the outdoor space. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to serve our community. I asked a few students some questions about themselves and how they are feeling about attending our program.

Isabella is 7 years old and in second grade. She speaks both Spanish and English. Her favorite subject in school is Math and she loves teal. Her favorite book to read is *Junie B. Jones*. She enjoys attending on Saturday and is always helping her friends.

Here are some of the questions we asked her:

Q: What is something you learned?

A: I learned glued sounds.

Q: What do you like most about attending this program?

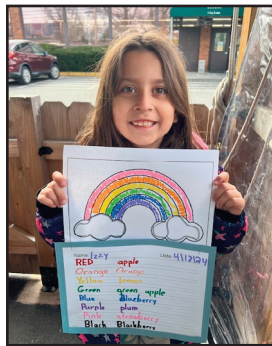
A: Everything is my favorite part!

Q: What is something you would like to do again?

A: I would like to play outside more.

Q: What is something you would like to learn more about?

A: I want to learn more words.



Danna and Arianna are 7 year old twin sisters who are native Spanish language speakers. They like Math and Spelling respectively. Danna enjoyed our interview time and shared this information with us.

Q: What do you like most about Saturday program?

A: I love the centers and having fun.

Q: What is something you have learned?

A: We learned vowels and consonants.

Q: What is something you would like to do again?

A: I want to do stations again and play with chalk.

Q: What is something you would like to learn more about?

A: How to spell harder words.

Q: What is your favorite book? A: *The Dot*.

Her sister Arianna provided her input on our program as well.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Saturday program?

A: The kind teacher.

Q: What is something you have learned?

A: I love learning about vowels.

Q: What is something you would like to do again?

A: Take more breaks.

Q: What is something you would like to learn more about?

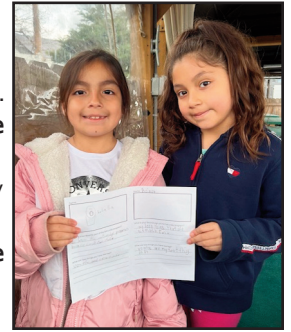
A: Harder spelling.

Q: What is your favorite book? A: *Horton Hatches the Egg*.

Most of our children in the program would agree on the answer to this final question. Both girls had the same response!

Q: What is something you love about Saturday program?

A: I love learning with Ms. Rebecca!



Warm Birthday Wishes to our tutors celebrating in May!

Roslyn Armstrong Powell – Sr. Mary Alice Aschenbach
Donna Bennett – Lynne Borah – Carl Borruso – Esther Braun
Marjorie Brown – Christopher Cantanno – Kathryn Cassidy
Regina Dallensandro – Nicolas DeMarco – Kate Dickson
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Sheila Saad – Kathy Scheiner – Mahendra Shah – Lanie Spencer
Harriet Studness – Merin Thomas – Ernestine Warner
Madeleine Weinberg – Sherika Wheatley – Meryl Weisenberg



TUTOR SPOTLIGHT: NEENAH

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

Neenah started volunteering with Literacy Nassau in January 2024. She and Bob P. worked as co-tutors of a level 1 class in Freeport, with each of them leading class one day a week and staying in touch to check in on students' progress. She continues to co-tutor. We thank Neenah for her dedication to her students and for piloting another option for co-tutoring where two tutors split a class and each attend once a week.

Q: How did you get involved with Literacy Nassau?

I became involved with Literacy Nassau because I was looking for a way to be more involved with service in the community. To me, service is very important for both the student/community and the volunteer. Service and engagement facilitates growth, strength, and resilience for all involved.

Q: Describe some of your experiences tutoring with Literacy Nassau.

The experience has been awesome! I truly mean that. The staff at Literacy Nassau and the Freeport Memorial Library are top notch. Starting with my initial email inquiry, to the training, and the support that Literacy Nassau offers – it has been a great experience as a first timer. Recently the class and I answered some questions which I turned into a grid on the white-board and it showed that we all had similarities and make similar decisions – what time we wake up, eat meals, etc. The question that really surprised us was; what do we do when we wake up? Most of us wrote "Pray." I wish I could say that I planned it, but I didn't; it just worked out.

Q: What motivates you to keep on tutoring with us?

The students. We learn from each other. I am teaching them English, and they are teaching me French and enhancing my knowledge of the Spanish language. And I really feel good when class is over and I know that everyone learned and retained at least one new word or fact or definition.

Q: What would you advise a new tutor just starting out with us?

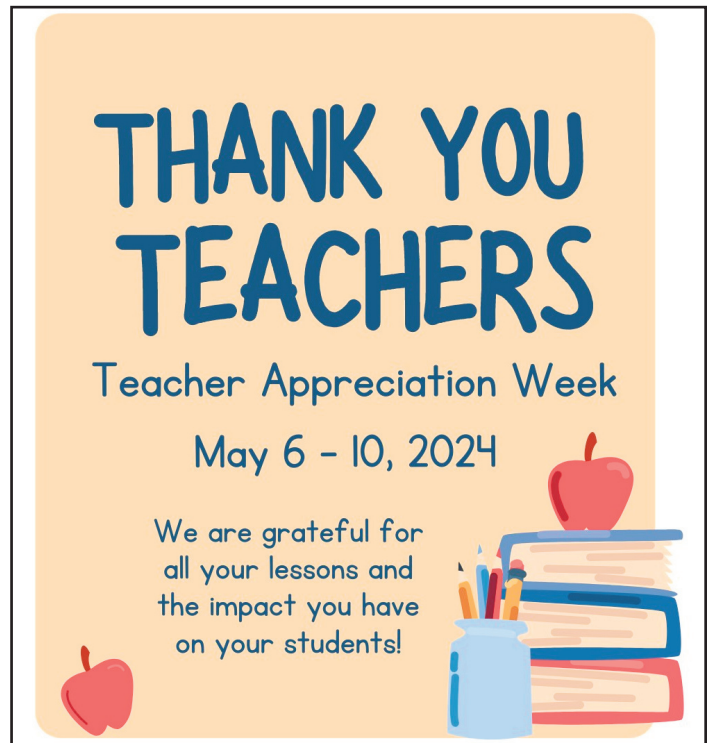
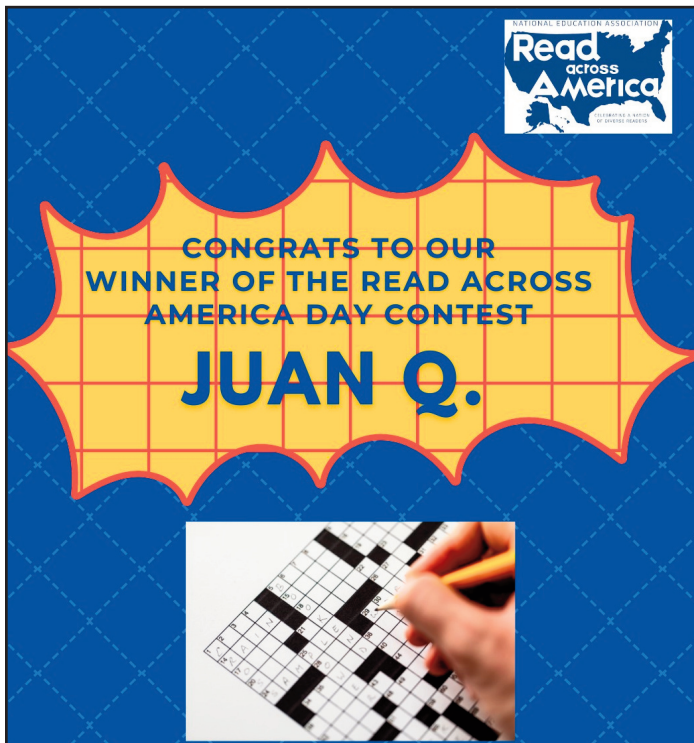
Just Do It! (It's not just for sneakers. 😊) Seriously – I was nervous; I even called my sister Christine who is a career educator and got some tips from her. Kate and her team are always there for support. Before I started, I sat in on one class that Bob was teaching – that was helpful. But know that you have so much to offer. The students are waiting to take it all in. Sign-up, show-up, you won't regret it!

Q: What are some of the student successes that you could highlight this session?

I think one success is the way we start each class. I ask each student how their day was and how are they feeling. And they can ask me. Everyone enjoys sharing and it allows them to use new vocabulary. Their responses evolve every Monday. Also, we recently started reading paragraphs out loud – I read and ask the students to circle words that are unfamiliar. We then write the words on the whiteboard, discuss, and define them. Everyone leaves class with quite a few new words added to their vocabulary.

Q: What are some activities you enjoy outside of tutoring with Literacy Nassau?

Outside of tutoring, I also volunteer at a food pantry in Brooklyn on Saturday mornings. I love spending time with my family including my 2 dogs: Ewing and Oakley. Sports, reading, traveling, and keeping up with friends is always on my to-do list.





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