

Reading. For Life.



LITERACY NASSAU

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

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 Anne-Marie Poliviou, Executive Assistant
 Renae Katz, Bookkeeper
 Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director
 Izabella Katz, Program Manager
 Stephanie Trees, OG Tutor
 Cristina Morales, Program Assistant
 Shamika Lilavois, Sat. Program Coord.

OG Tutors:

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NEW ALE EXPECTATIONS

(by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

Every year, the New York State Education Department re-valuates itself and makes changes to its partner schools and organizations in an effort to produce the best outcomes possible for students across the state, both young and old. With this in mind, all ALE funded programs have been closely monitored ever since COVID to ensure that students are getting what they need. As a result, the powers that be in the Adult Education sector of NYSED have decided upon some (ever-evolving) mandates that pertain to the way we work with our adult population here at Literacy Nassau. Most notably, we've been informed that it will become required for our larger groups to be instructed by seasoned teachers.

I had the opportunity this summer to recruit and hire our newest staff member: Steven Unter. I asked him to offer us a little bit of background about himself. In his own words:

"My name is Steven Unter and I am a licensed New York State English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher. I worked for the New York City Department of Education for the past 33 years in Jamaica, Queens. My most recent job responsibility was serving as an English as a Second

Language Coordinator. As an ESL Coordinator, I met many families registering for school for the first time in the United States. I enjoyed personal fulfillment by taking responsibility for making families feel welcomed to our school building.

Prior to this role, I taught English as a Second Language for many years to students in an elementary school. I also taught English as a Second Language to adults at Kingsborough Community College. Providing a supportive environment was always a top priority of mine. Diverse cultures were represented in my classroom and I viewed this diversity as a strength.

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, bicycling, tennis, and I am a fan of New York sports.

I am very much looking forward to working at Literacy Nassau and guiding students towards success and proficiency in the English language."

Welcome to the team, Steve! We're so happy to have you here.

I'll be keeping everyone abreast of any further changes NYSED makes to ALE-funded programs as the year progresses. Stay tuned!



FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

Back to school season is upon us again, and I'm extra excited this year to watch Kate flourish in her role as Fellow In Training! This August marked the beginning of Kate's final year of training before applying to the Orton-Gillingham Academy and I can attest to how hard the last year is. I love that I can serve her as a mentor, having just gone through it myself. Also, I love this time of year because it gives us all the opportunity to reset and refocus. I'm a huge fan of having a schedule, and as we look to the coming months, I'm eager to see how our organization shifts into the new scheduling requirements of our ALE contract, as described above. If there's one thing I've learned in this business, it's that the only thing you can count on is change: there will always be some new obstacle to contend with! I know we will rise to the challenge, because that's what we always do. Cheers to a prosperous school year!

Karen 😊



Pictured above: Our 2024-2025 Orton-Gillingham Associate level cohort enjoyed a wonderful week of training from August 19-23rd, led by our own Senior Program Director, Kate Quijano! (Of course, our Supervising Fellow, Laurie Cousseau, was there for support - as was !!)

MEET OUR NEW ORTON-GILLINGHAM COHORT

We asked our new cohort of OG tutor trainees to tell us why they want to be trained in OG. Here is what they said:



Andrea: As a dedicated special educator of 27 years and the mom of 2 college age young adults who have learning differences, including dyslexia, I am super excited to be part of the OG training. I am very passionate about teaching reading and I am ready to learn how to best help my students grow throughout their reading journeys.



Marcella: As an educator and mother to three children with disabilities, I am very excited for this learning opportunity. My daughter was diagnosed with dyslexia and through the OG approach she has made amazing progress. It has inspired me to learn more so that I can help other children just like her!



Mary: I am an educator with over 30 years of experience. I enjoy teaching others to develop skills and strategies for reading success. I am so grateful for this opportunity and look forward to learning and working with others at Literacy Nassau to obtain Associate Level Certification.



Gina O: As a teacher of 26 years, I have been passionate about finding effective ways to help my students become successful readers. I have worked with struggling readers in my classroom and I have found that the multi-sensory approach is a very effective method. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge by getting my OG Certification.



MaryEllen: I was a Police Medic Coordinator and retired after working for the NCPD for 27 years. I have two children and my youngest child has dyslexia. I have struggled to find him appropriate help through the public school system. The Orton-Gillingham approach helped my child tremendously so I have decided to become certified in order to help other children become skilled and confident enough that they learn to love reading.



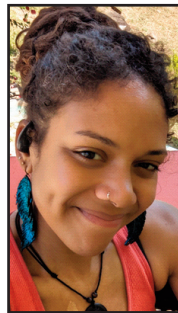
Gina C: As a special education teacher for the past 12 years, I am always looking for new lessons and strategies to help my students. OG is the most effective approach for me to use so that I can help my students progress as readers. I am looking forward to learning all that I can this next year at Literacy Nassau.




Annmarie: I am a teacher and mother of two wonderful boys. My family has been affected by dyslexia so I understand the struggles a student may encounter while learning to read. I'm looking forward to applying the OG approach, as I believe this will be a game changer for those having difficulties reading.



Lisbeth: I have been an early childhood teacher for over 25 years. I am semi-retired from the NYC Department of Education and I am currently a substitute teacher. Teaching children to read has been the most rewarding part of my career. I look forward to being part of the OG cohort so I can grow as an educator and help students become confident learners.



Megan: I have been working with individuals with disabilities for the past 17 years. I currently work with as a high school special education teacher at District 75 in NYC. As a special educator, I noticed that my students' biggest barrier to success was often their lack of reading proficiency. After a friend told me about her son's profound success at Literacy Nassau, I decided to become a part of the solution through certification with the Orton-Gillingham Academy.

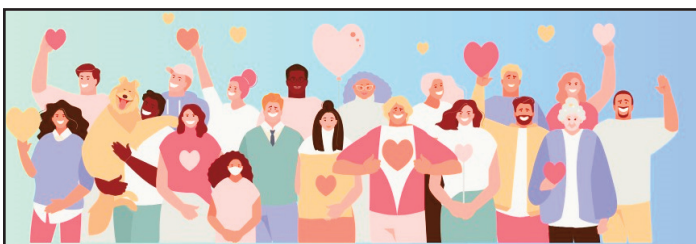


Please note that Cristina is out on maternity leave. Any inquiries that would usually go to her should be addressed to Izzy or Kate.

Congratulations, Cristina, on the birth of your baby boy. Thank you for all of your hard work for the students of Literacy Nassau and for making sure that all of the registration materials were prepped far in advance of your departure to ensure we would be ready for a September registration period without you. We will miss you and eagerly await your return in November.

Our OG Summer Intensive Program students had a great time learning with their teachers for indoor instruction. Then they used what they learned to have some fun during their outdoor activity.

We enjoyed our time with them this summer for the 4th year of our OG program!



We would like to offer a huge thank you to our tutor, Richard Sanders, who volunteered his time over the summer to help us in the office. He displayed our OG students' artwork, made phone calls to potential ELL students who needed support submitting their applications online, created labels for tabs in the training binder of our incoming OG training cohort, stuffed and labeled envelopes for newsletters, and made copies to help us prepare curriculum materials for next school year's ELL program. Thank you, Richard, for all your help this summer; we appreciate your time!



SATURDAY ENGLISH PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

We are happy to announce the offering of this program once again thanks to the support of the Guru Krupa Foundation. If you know anyone who would be interested in English classes for children ages 6-10 please have them contact us.

SATURDAY ENGLISH IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR KIDS

FUNDED BY THE GURU KRUPA FOUNDATION

Featuring traditional academic instruction, crafts, games, and other activities!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 - JUNE 14
 LOCATION: 1 IVY LANE IN WANTAGH
 TIME: 9:00AM - 11:30AM
 CHILDREN AGES 6-10; GRADES 1-5



REGISTER NOW. ACCEPTING APPLICANTS.
 CLASSES ARE FREE! SPACE IS LIMITED.

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Warm Birthday Wishes to our tutors celebrating in September!

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- Lillian Baum – Shaneehah Beau – Michelle Berman
- Toni Cangialosi – Lisa Chieco – Janice Collins – Carol Cook
- Janice Donoghue – Pat Egland – Rhea Epstein – Leslie Feinberg
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- Ana Stanley – Jenn Starzynski – Jeanmarie Tener
- Lois Thomas – Blanche Tyrkko – Maria Vivona
- Janine Washinger – Loretta White – Colleen Woodell



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English classes
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