

Reading. For Life.



LITERACY
N A S S A U

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

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INTRODUCING OUR LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES!

(by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

I've always been fascinated with Little Free Libraries. I think they're adorable, and they pop up in the most unexpected places. My favorite LFL is located right by our beach in Cape Cod. It's so much fun to explore the books that have been donated and hopefully discover a great new read!

I promised myself I would do something to commemorate the completion of my OG journey to becoming a Fellow. What better way to leave a mark than by offering the gift of books to our community? I bought two Little Free Libraries - one for children's books and one for adult titles - and installed them in front of our building. Each one is stationed beside an outdoor bench, perfect for perusing on a fall day.

Little Free Library is a non-profit organization based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Their mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-sharing boxes.

All purchases from the LFL website benefit their programs. There are three major initiatives they work toward. The

Impact Library Program brings books to underserved areas by providing no-cost LFLs to communities where books are scarce. The Read in Color program brings diverse books to LFL book-sharing boxes around the world, aiming to share perspectives on racism and social justice; celebrate BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices; and incorporate experiences from all identities for all readers. Lastly, the Indigenous Library Program works with Indigenous community leaders to place LFLs on tribal lands, where book access is a particularly prevalent challenge.

Looking for an LFL in your community? They have a handy map you can use to search for one. Use this link to find a map of all the libraries in your area:

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/map/>

Want to help or get involved? We're gratefully accepting book donations! Drop off your new or gently used adult novels or children's books, and we'll add them to our libraries, hopefully finding them a new home! Thanks, and happy reading!



FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

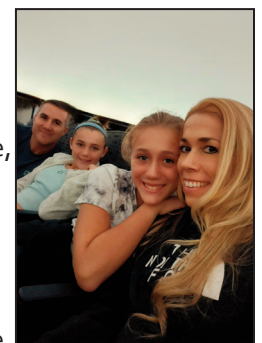
Recently, my family and I took a weekend trip to Washington, DC. My girls are now at an age where they pay attention to the news, and they've become interested in the upcoming election. They wanted to see some landmark buildings, including the White House, Capitol building, and Washington monument, so off we went.

We're careful not to discuss our political views outside of the home. However, one thing I love about working at Literacy Nassau is the role we play in teaching civics to our students. We host citizenship classes, prepare students for naturalization, and help people register to vote. We always say - we don't care what your stance is, but it's important to make sure your voice is heard!

As our kids continue to grow, Chris and I make it a point to answer their questions about government to help them be informed young citizens. Haley even wants to run for student body president someday! In your work with our adult students, I'd encourage you to do the same. Connect your students to resources when you can. If you don't know where to find those resources, refer them to the staff team at LN. We are here to help! Knowledge is power, and it's the best gift we can give to our students.

Thank you, as always, for the work you do!

Karen 😊



Pictured above: The four of us in the planetarium at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, indulging my husband (the Earth Science teacher) in a film about dark matter.

OCTOBER IS DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

(by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

September was a busy month at Literacy Nassau! We were so pleased to welcome our new cohort of donation-based students and their tutor trainees to the center. They enjoyed doing some getting to know you activities and some assessment to prepare for the individualized instruction they will receive this year. We were also happy to see many of our students returning from last year to our fee-based programs and our school district contract work.

As we move into October, we are reminded of the importance of the work we do every day here at Literacy Nassau in serving students with dyslexia and other language based learning disabilities. October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. The word dyslexia comes from Greek and means "difficulty with words." Some symptoms of dyslexia are as follows:

- Difficulty understanding that words are made up of sounds represented by letters
- Difficulty recognizing letter forms, matching letters to sounds (sound/symbols)
- Difficulty blending sounds within words
- Letter and/or word reversals
- Difficulty keeping one's place when tracking and not skipping over words
- Many spelling mistakes
- Avoidance of reading
- Difficulty copying from the board
- Ignoring punctuation when reading aloud
- Reading a word correctly on one page and incorrectly on the next
- Misreading, omitting, or adding small function words (as, an, a, from, the)

You can get more information about dyslexia from:

<https://dyslexiaida.org/definition-of-dyslexia/#>

Orton-Gillingham is known as the gold standard in working with students with dyslexia. It uses a structured, multisensory approach and meets each child exactly where they are. All of

our tutors have received their certification (or are training to receive certification) from the Orton-Gillingham Academy (OGA). For more information on Orton-Gillingham, please visit: <https://www.ortonacademy.org>

Literacy Nassau tutors do not use a packaged program, workbooks, or "readers." They actually take the time to create text specifically for their students based on the skills they have taught. This also gives them the opportunity to write stories related to each child's interests. This is a unique aspect of OG that ensures students have text that is accessible and relatable to them. I always love hearing everyone's unique stories that they have created for their students.

A question I often get asked is, "What should my child read at home?" While I can't ask your tutor to create additional text for them to read at home, I can recommend a few resources where you can find decodable texts (books that are decodable for them based on the skills they have already learned and which do not include advanced skills that they have not been taught yet nor concepts that would encourage guessing.) You can ask your tutor what syllable types/skills have been introduced to help you know which levels/series of each of these resources would be best for them. You can check out the following sites:

SimpleWord Books (<https://simplewordsbooks.com>)

Dog on a Log series (<https://dogonalogbooks.com>)

High Noon Books-Sound Out Chapter Books (<https://www.highnoonbooks.com>)

Nessy.com also offers web-based resources, videos, and games that can add some fun while reinforcing the methodology that students are learning through their OG tutoring. You can also search for Nessy videos on YouTube.



The dyslexia symbol

empowers the dyslexic community



This jewelry line was designed to create a way for the dyslexia symbol to show support and start conversations and to raise funding for dyslexia organizations. Available in sterling, 14k over sterling, and solid 14k, styles come in an organza gift bag with an eye-catching information card that explains the significance of the dyslexia symbol.

www.pqbd.org

Please type in our organization **LITERACY NASSAU** when ordering.

They will donate 10% of your purchase to us.



Warm Birthday Wishes to our tutors celebrating in October!

- Mary-Joan Albiston – Eileen Ambach - Catherine Antioco
- Patricia Boilerman – Angella Broderick – Judy Casella
- Helen Chang – Daniela Chiu – Pini Churgin – Ann Cullen
- Joanne DePaula – Alanna Devine – Joshua Diamond
- Sheryll Dorf – Judy Douenias – David Evans – Darleen Fleming
- Cindy Florman – Alison Frankel – Lori Freeman
- Rosemary Fuchs – Robert Genovese – Marsha Herman
- Linda Ivans – Sarah Jairam – Carol Keating – Jeff Konzet
- Maya Leibfreid – Laura Longo – Ada Marcus – Maura Martinez
- Judy McClusky – Karen Moore – Louise Nachshen
- Antoinette Nardo – Maureen O'Connor – Rebecca Popiole
- Gwynn Riordan – Gene Sanders – Olga Scileppi – Philip Scotto
- Scott Shelofsky – Barbara Simonds – Andrea Snyder
- Irma Souveroff – Julianne Stanko – Diane Tully
- Eileen Weissman – Donna White – Richard Wieder
- Megan Williams – Thomas A. Williams

ADULT ELL REGISTRATION

(by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

We spent the month of September traveling to each of our classes for the launch of their first day. Our new robust intake (as mandated by State Ed) included the opportunity for students to meet their tutors, do some getting to know you activities and goal setting, review schedules/expectations of the program, and receive information about case management services and other services available to them in the community. Students each received a resource packet to take home with them.

While students met with their tutors, LN staff pulled students for one on one meetings to complete their intake paperwork, take an English test, and to sign up for Job Zone, a state site to support them in their job search. State Ed is increasing their emphasis on providing English language services in order to help students find work and encouraging them to do so as part of our case management services. Everyone now has a Job Zone account and access to State resources for career development.

We want to thank all of our tutors who came out to support this new intake process. It was so nice to get to see everyone again and to have a glimpse into your classroom and all the hard work you do with your students day after day and year after year.

As our expectations for site visits and case management increases, you will be seeing more of us in your classrooms. We look forward to increased contact hours with our students and tutors in order to support everyone's learning.

We also want to thank all of our partner libraries for their flexibility in accommodating our new procedures and their on-going support of our students in their path toward increased proficiency with English and access to employment. We are able to offer our services to students free of cost due to the space that libraries reserve for us free of charge.

Tutors also took their students on a tour of the library to help them see what other resources were available for them. We always encourage our students to sign up for a library card and to check in with librarians about other support services the libraries offer.

We look forward to another great year with our tutors and students!



SATURDAY PROGRAM WELCOMES SHAMIKA LILAVOIS

(by Izabella Katz, Program Manager)

In late September, we began our Saturday Immersion English class for children 6-10 years old. This program was generously funded by the Guru Krupa Foundation. Our goal is to provide a safe and fun environment where children can learn and become more comfortable with the English language. Students will participate in lessons, activities, games, arts and crafts and more! The most exciting part is getting to see the new friendships that will form!

This year, we are lucky to have Shamika Lilavois join us in teaching our Saturday classes. Shamika is a full-time Special Education Teacher. This past summer, Shamika participated in our OG Summer Intensive Program as a teacher and will now be joining us for our Saturday Immersion English class. Shamika comes to our Saturday program with great ideas! The children will love learning. We are looking forward to the connections she will make throughout the school year.



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OUR SATURDAY ENGLISH IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR KIDS HAS BEGUN!

THANKS TO THE GURU KRUPA FOUNDATION

GURU KRUPA
Foundation Inc

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





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



You can help support our programs by making a donation.

Our literacy services are accessible to disadvantaged populations of all ages by providing donation-based language-building programs. You may continue to make this possible by donating to us directly on our website at www.literacynassau.org/donate

DONATE or scan the QR code.





ORTON-GILLINGHAM TUTORING AVAILABLE

Tutoring is available in person at our center in Wantagh or virtually. Our staff has Orton-Gillingham Academy certification at an Associate level or above.

Rate: \$150 per 60 minute session

For more information email kquijano@literacynassau.org



Follow us on Social Media!





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