



LITERACY MATTERS

OCTOBER 2018

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



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GRAND OPENING ANNOUNCED!

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

November 4th might seem like any other Sunday on the calendar to most people. But, on the calendar in my kitchen, it is circled in bright red Sharpie marker, and written in the box below it are two of the scariest and most exhilarating words in the English language: Grand Opening.

It seems impossible that six weeks from the writing of this article, we might actually be finished with all the work necessary to open the new building in Wantagh. There is still so much that still needs to be done: the two bathrooms and kitchen need to be put in, the landscaping needs to be cleared out and redone, the lights in half the building need to be refinished, and there seem to be endless linear feet of new drywall that need to be primed and painted.

But time marches on, whether we are ready for it or not. September 5th marked the beginning of a new school year for the 12 kids in our pilot program. We decided that it would be cruel to make those children wait until every wall is painted and every picture is hung to begin receiving services, especially when we know all too well how quickly a child can fall behind when he/she struggles just to keep up with

the pace of his/her peers.

So, we went the road less traveled, and as of September 17th, we began having our tutor/student Orton-Gillingham pairs meet in the three painted tutoring rooms we felt were "ready enough for use." Using folding tables and chairs and whatever supplies the tutor could carry in a traveling file box, lessons began at 1 Ivy Lane in Wantagh.

We are now in the thick of preparing for our grand opening celebration, and you will see invitations in your mailbox very soon. Until then, please hold the date in your calendar: Sunday, November 4th at 12pm, for a formal ribbon cutting followed by tours of the building, lunch, and a keynote speaker. Many of us will be coming that day straight from the Dyslexia Dash in Eisenhower Park (see page 4 for details). *continued on p.2*



The tutoring center is almost done being painted, but is already being used 6 days a week by the 12 children in our program!

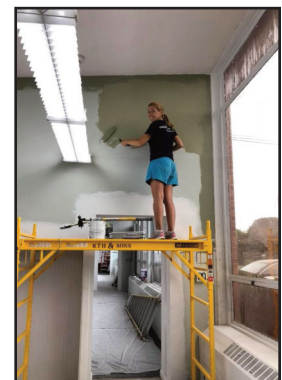
THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

It's Halloween season, and every time I go into a store with my kids, my little one (Julie) ends up seeing something that scares her - usually a ghoulish decoration. When she sees it down an aisle or from afar, I take her by the hand and whisper in her ear to be brave, and then we walk past it together. Once we pass the scary object, I praise her for being such a big girl and tell her how proud I am of her!

I wish the same premise held true in adult life. I wish someone would hold my hand, encourage me, and praise me every time I had to face something scary - but unfortunately, that is not reality. As adults, we all have to do things that scare us: consider the students who move across the globe for just the chance at a better life. (We're moving our building three towns over and I'm scared, imagine how they feel?) It is a nice reminder that as tutors and teachers, we should practice patience with our students and be cognizant to offer encouraging words as often as possible. They really can go a long way.

Karen 😊



I am scared of heights. Every day, we face fears that challenge us to become better versions of ourselves. Fear is a great motivator!



GRAND OPENING, CONT'D.

The grand opening will celebrate the legacy that Literacy Nassau has created over the past 50 years, while looking ahead to what a space like ours can offer the community at large for the years to come.

Much press has circulated about the event, including an article on the front page of the Freeport Herald (also included in the Wantagh, Bellmore, and Seaford editions) and Nassau Community College's radio show entitled "My Hometown," which will air on 90.3FM on Thursday, October 18th at 4:00pm. During the radio show, I was asked what I envision for the future of Literacy Nassau, 5 or 10 years down the line. It was a hard question to answer (given the fact that I can barely think about what I have going on next week!) but upon reflecting, I imagine a center that serves no less than 100 children with learning disabilities every week after school. I also imagine building a program that bridges the gap for children who are new to America, where they can come and participate in an intensive study of English *before* their parents enroll them in public school.

It is rare to be able to witness the beginning of something special. Usually we hear about great stories after they happen. This is your chance. You are already an extremely important part of this story, and we want to celebrate you - all the tutors who have made Literacy Nassau into the incredible organization that it is. We outgrew our space because of your hard work and dedication. I sincerely hope you will join us to celebrate the fruits of your labor, and to bear witness to the beginning of a new chapter in our history.

BUILDING SPONSORS

A very special thank you goes out to all the companies, foundations and individuals who have sponsored Literacy Nassau's new building in some way, shape or form! To get involved or to make a donation, please visit our website at literacynassau.org/capitalfund!

Thank you to:

Guru Krupa Foundation and Mukund Padmanabhan
 John & Janet Kornreich Foundation
 First Book
 Carpet Depot
 Ace Costello's Hardware
 Benjamin Moore
 Atlantic Nursery
 Sherwin Williams of Merrick
 WL Concepts
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 Lita Friedman

FUN FALL FAMILY TRIP IDEA

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

Do you need an idea for a fun fall trip? I would suggest apple or pumpkin picking at Wickham's Fruit Farm in Cutchogue. You can visit their farm stand and purchase a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables or sign up for "PYO" (pick your own) fruit. You can purchase a variety of sizes of fruit bags, then take a walk or a wagon ride into the fields to pick your own fruit and fill your bag.

During our summer session, our ONA students went on a field trip to Wickham's farm for a group tour. We learned about the history of the farm, had a wagon ride, and picked our own peaches. They were delicious! The staff was very friendly and answered all the students' questions about farming on Long Island.

Many ONA students plan to return to the farm in the fall and recommend that you do too. The available fruit varies by season; check their website to see what fruit is available on the day that you want to visit:

<http://www.wickhamsfruitfarm.com/pyo.htm>



ONA students enjoying a day at Wickham's Farm.



Congratulations to Roxana Aguirre on becoming a United States Citizen!

She completed her advanced ESL (ONA) class, earned a spot as an intern in our office, and became a U.S. citizen all in one year!

We are so very proud!

WHAT IS PUBLIC CHARGE?

(submitted by Kelly Siry)

People everywhere are expressing fear and uncertainty when it comes to immigration during the current political climate. Although we don't have all the answers we would like to share what we know.

Recently the Federal Government proposed changes to the longstanding definition of "public charge" which is used to determine an individual's admissibility to the U.S. or his/her ability to become a lawful permanent resident. As of right now, the only programs that are part of public charge are cash assistance (like TANF or SSI) or institutionalized long-term care (like living in a nursing home) through Medicaid. The changes the government is considering would make more programs part of public charge including, Medicaid, Child Health Plus, SNAP, WIC, housing assistance, and the Earned Income Tax Credit, among others.

Although this rule has not yet been implemented, nor has the proposal been published, its impending implementation is concerning to immigrant communities. Many immigrant families are already choosing not to access certain public services they have a right to, out of fear that it will impact their immigration status. Even though refugees are exempt from the changes to the public charge rule, they are also expressing confusion and worry as well.

If you have questions about public charge related to immigration you can call the New American Hotline at 1-800-566-7636.

This free, anonymous hotline is available in many languages.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PUBLIC CHARGE?

We stand with New York's immigrant communities during this time of uncertainty.

(516)867-3580
www.LiteracyNassau.org

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JAIRO CABRERA

(submitted by Cindy Cabrera)

Language acquisition is a process by which we acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language. As our ears start to acknowledge familiar sounds we start to produce the language and utilize words to communicate to others. For some learners it may take years to have a foundation to continue their learning process. At Literacy Nassau we believe in giving a strong foundation to our students.

We host ESOL groups throughout Nassau County to help our English Language Learners. Throughout the years we have streamlined our services, so our students can benefit from learning from our volunteers. At times it can get frustrating for the student and tutor. Despite the challenges, we have had many successful students that our organization has impacted. I want to share a story so you are able to continue inspiring your students.

Jairo Cabrera (my husband) came from the Dominican Republic 3 years ago. He had to adjust to a new culture, new marriage, and a new language. It was overwhelming. He registered with Literacy Nassau and entered into a beginner group. As he was learning English; he got a job! As his English skills were improving he got promoted into a better position. Jairo's confidence has flourished throughout his time with us; and now he ready to move on into our Advanced ESOL classes. He loves his current group with Nia Obara, who teaches at Bay Shore. Like many of our students who don't wish to move on, Jairo understands in order to improve his language skills he will need to continue facing new challenges. Hopefully we will witness Jairo graduating from Literacy Nassau in the near future.

Warm wishes to the following tutors born in October!

Mary-Joan Albiston - Catherine Antioco - Patricia Boilerman - Angella Broderick - Judy Casella - Ann Cullen - Joanne Depaula - Joshua Diamond - Judy Douenias - Sheryll Dorf - Rhonnie Fischman - Cindy Florman - Alison Frankel - Lori Freeman - Rosemary Fuchs - Jennifer Goodwin - Marsha Herman - Sakina Husain - Linda Ivans - Sarah Jairam - Carol Keating - Jeff Konzet - Maya Leibfreid - Laura Longo - Ada Marcus - Judy McClusky - Louise Nachshen - Antoinette Nardo - Steven Reale - Elizabeth Reilly - Gwynn Riordan - Marcy Rollman - Gene Sanders - Olga Scileppi - Philip Scotto Scott Shelofsky - Andrea Snyder - Irma Souveroff - Diane Tully - Richard Wieder - Donna White - Thomas Williams



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Dyslexia Dash
5K WALK / RUN
NOVEMBER 4, 2018 | 7:30AM - 11:00AM | EISENHOWER PARK

REGISTER OR DONATE TODAY!
[HTTPS://LITERACYNASSAU5K.GREATFEATS.COM/](https://literacynassau5k.greatfeats.com/)



QUICK GUIDE TO THE DYSLEXIA DASH

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

Our first annual Dyslexia Dash is a 5k run/walk being held on November 4th at Eisenhower Park. Open to all ages, this fun, healthy morning will include giveaways, music, kids games, and more! You can run/walk in honor of a family member with a learning disability (or yourself, if it pertains to you), and by helping us raise money for our new donation-based tutoring center, you will be making a huge difference in the lives of countless Long Island children who deserve to have the opportunity to learn how to read, write and spell - something that most of us take for granted.

Your registration in the Dyslexia Dash also entitles you to a free lunch at our Grand Opening ceremony in Wantagh immediately following the 5k! Come enjoy a tour of our new building and hear a keynote speech by Adam Braun, New York Times Bestselling author of *The Promise of a Pencil*.

To register for the Dyslexia Dash, go to: <https://literacynassau5k.greatfeats.com/> and click on "Get Involved" at the top. There are prizes for the top fundraisers, and it is an event that you should definitely invite friends and family (of all ages) to. Show them what Literacy Nassau is all about and why it matters to you!