

Literacy of Northern New York's March 2016 Newsletter



New Website!

This month we are rolling out our new website, www.literacynny.org. Deborah spent countless hours developing it so let her know if you like it. She did a wonderful job designing it and learning how to use the WordPress software. Cecilia edited the content on the website.

We have a lot of great information on our website including tutoring tips, excellent web resources, and general information about our agency. You will also find many of the handouts you received during tutor training such as the consonant and vowel keyword pictures, multiplication charts, etc., on the website.

Student Success Stories



Almudena, an ESL student from St. Lawrence County, has recently returned to the snowy North Country after spending Christmas with her family in Madrid. Her goal for 2016 is to complete the New York State requirements so she can become a licensed occupational therapist. She has worked in occupational therapy in her home country of Spain for more than a decade and would like to use her skills here in the U.S. Almudena will celebrate her birthday and one year anniversary of coming to live in the U.S. with her husband on March 10, 2016.

Naoko, a successful ESL student from Potsdam, has also recently returned from a trip to her native Japan. She shared her experiences with our ESL conversation class upon her return and brought us chocolate and other delicacies from Japan to taste test. Delicious!



Eager to obtain a job, Jacinta, a native of Nigeria, began attending ESL classes at Literacy of Northern New York several times a week last spring. She takes pride in setting up our audiovisual equipment for our ESL class and also helps Deborah pack up the equipment and other materials after class. After several months and over 125 hours of instruction, Jacinta went up a level when she was reassessed. Deborah helped her fill out online and paper job applications and after a few months of searching, Jacinta, who lives in Watertown, obtained a part-time job at a local restaurant. She recently moved out of her son's home and obtained her own apartment.

Jacinta enjoys giving back to the community by volunteering at the Urban Mission, which operates a thrift store and food pantry.

PrepPath – Another Pathway for Learning

We recently purchased a new software program called PrepPath and have “seats” available for 10 students. The software allows students to practice math, reading, social studies and science skills at home. Cecilia is currently working with four students on the system. She sends them assignments as well as encourages students to do self-study.

Students with lower reading levels can opt to have the text read to them. The program covers elementary school level skills in all subject areas up through high school level skills. Students need to be self-motivated to use the program and they need access to the internet. The program can be used on multiple platforms such as smart phones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers.

PrepPath explains the answer to each question and gives hints when a student picks the wrong answer. The software generates reports so Cecilia can see which questions the student made a mistake on and what their initial answer was. It also generates reports stating which skills students need to work on.

Contact Cecilia if you think your student would be a good candidate for this program.



Scrabble® Tournament

We are looking for teams to play in our Saturday, April 30th Scrabble® Tournament at Jefferson Community College. The event will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per adult or \$10 per student, which includes college students. LNNY has a number of Scrabble® boards for people to use or you can bring your own!

We will serve refreshments and give out prizes to the top players. There will also be door prizes. The team with the most inventive name will also receive a prize. Come join the fun and raise money for Literacy of Northern New York’s literacy programs. JCC’s Social Science Department is co-sponsoring the event with us.

Staff Anniversaries

Congratulations to Maria Morrison, who recently celebrated her one year anniversary on our staff. Maria works in our Potsdam office. Deborah will celebrate her 11th anniversary at LNNY on March 15th.

Tutor Tip

Many students struggle with vowel sounds. Here's an activity if students mix up long and short vowel sounds. Show the student a list of short vowel words first. If your student really struggles with vowel sounds, make sure the list has words containing the same vowel and use a key word to remind her of the vowel sound. For instance, if you are working on a list of short A words, use apple as the key word. Then show her how a silent E at the end of a word makes the vowel before it shout its name (long sound).

cap	cap ^e
tap	tap ^e
nap	nape
rag	rage
can	cane
fat	fate
fad	fade
hat	hate
man	mane
pal	pale
pan	pane
rat	rate
van	vane
wag	wage
sag	sage
mad	made

Students may notice the silent E more if you write it in a different color. You can use a red pen to write the silent E or a highlighter to make it stand out more.

You also work on vocabulary development by asking the student if he or she knows what nape, mane, pane, and sage mean.

Smart phones are a great tool when tutoring. If the student doesn't know what a mane is, google a picture of a male lion or a horse. If you don't have a smart phone, your student may have one.

We have laptops and an I-pad that tutors can borrow if they are tutoring in the Watertown office.

This activity will go smoother if you prepare these word lists before the lesson!

Resources: Google silent E words or short A words if you are making up a list for a student. *The Reading Teacher's Book of Lists* has a list these words (page 5).