

Literacy of Northern NY March 2017 Newsletter



Live, Love, Learn Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, June 3rd: Literacy of Northern NY is conducting an auction fundraiser at 10 a.m. June 3rd at Trinity Episcopal Church in Watertown. We are in the process of gathering items for the auction. If you have an item you'd like to donate, let us know!

We greatly appreciate the two businesses who have generously sponsored the event:

Silver level donor: **Kellie A. Sanzone, D.D.S., specializing in orthodontics**

Bronze level donor: **Hrabchak & Gebo, P.C., Attorneys at Law**

Saturday, June 17 ***"Over the Edge" Fundraising Event***

Nonprofits can participate and raise funds in United Way of Northern New York's Over the Edge fundraiser. For this unusual event, participants will rappel off the roof of Midtown Towers in Watertown. Each participant has to raise a minimum fundraising goal of \$1,000 and can pick a nonprofit to support, such as Literacy of Northern NY.

Last September, people rappelled off the four-story Key Bank building. This year, the venue is Midtown Towers in Watertown, which is a taller building and has been dubbed, "Tower of Terror."

Last year, LNNY was fortunate to have our courageous board president, Dr. Cynthia Lonsbary, as our representative. She climbed down the building like a pro! We are looking for someone who wants to do the event this year. Once we have an official person to rappel on behalf of LNNY, we will provide information about sponsoring our volunteer.

Call us at 315-782-4270 if you are interested in this fundraising opportunity.

Story Pyramid

This excellent tutoring tip is from *The Volunteer Tutor's Toolbox*, by editor Beth Ann Herrmann:

When we test students, they often have difficulty answering questions about the setting, plot and characters of a passage they read. One way to help with these skills is to build a story pyramid. After your student reads a story, ask him or her to:

Line 1: Write a one-word name of a character in the story.

Line 2: Write two words that describe the setting.

Line 3: Write three words that describe a character.
Line 4: Write four words in a sentence that describes an event.
Line 5: Write five words in a sentence to describe another event.

What a Hard-Working Student!

Wanda is working on math and reading skills. Her goal is to obtain her high school equivalency diploma. She recently obtained a job working at SAAC (School Age Child Care). Wanda works a split shift. She goes to work early in the morning, studies with a tutor mid-morning, and then goes back to work in the afternoon.

Wanda's main tutor, Millie, is away for three months, but that has not stopped this pair from working together. Wanda and Millie are so committed to tutoring that they work together over the phone on reading skills. Cecilia is helping Wanda with math skills until Millie returns to the area.



Wanda at her math lesson

Students Learn about Health Literacy Thanks to a Grant from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield



Roman Hall teaches the beginner ESOL class at Fort Drum on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. He has a wonderful rapport with his students and they are progressing well. They are using *Health Stories*, a series that covers common medical issues and facilitates the acquisition of language skills needed to handle many different health care topics. The series has three levels, introductory, low-beginner, and high-beginner. Each level includes a teacher's manual and audio CDs. Every lesson has a story, reading comprehension questions, new vocabulary, discussion questions, dialogues, and pronunciation exercises. We are grateful to Excellus BlueCross BlueShield for their financial support of our ESL health lessons.

At left, Roman teaching health-related vocabulary.

Roman's ESOL class using the Health Stories series in class



From top left ~ Jackline, Taina, Elaf, & Roman