

Literacy of NNY

Low literacy's effects cost the U.S. \$225 billion or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

Source:
ProLiteracy

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Math Tutoring is in Demand



We have been receiving a lot of requests from adults who need help with basic math skills. Some have tried to get into the military or enter training for a job but did not pass the math test.

Others can read well enough but need help with math so they can pass the GED. The students coming into our program generally need to work on basic skills such as multiplication, division and fractions.

Executive Director M. Cecilia Brock recently conducted a math tutor training and eight people, including Sarah and Ann, shown at left, completed it. If you are interested in tutoring math, contact us at 782-4270.

J.C.C. Donates More than 1,000 Children's Books

The staff at Jefferson Community College's Melvil Dewey Library collected more than 1,000 children's books at the end of 2010 and donated them to Literacy of Northern New York. Also helping with the book drive were members of the J.C.C. Criminal Justice Club.

Literacy of Northern New York gave out the books to low-income families picking up holiday gifts and food in December at the Salvation Army in Watertown. Families

were able to take home a big bag of books and greatly appreciated the gift. Below is one of the children who picked out some books.



Becoming a U.S. citizen



One of our students, Guangxia of China, recently passed the U.S. citizenship test. She is now a proud U.S. citizen!

Although she could already read and write English well, Guangxia studied American history with a tutor in order to be able to pass the citizenship test. There are a 100 possible history questions people must study in

order to pass the test. She used the citizenship books we received as part of the National Book Scholarship grant from ProLiteracy to study for the exam. During the exam, each person applying for citizenship must answer six out of 10 history questions correctly. They must also be able to answer questions about their citizenship

application, speak English and write some simple sentences.

Guangxia works at several part-time jobs and is very grateful she has realized her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen, thanks to the help she received from Literacy of Northern New York.



Could You Pass the U.S. Citizenship Test?

Here are some sample questions on the U.S. citizenship test.

1. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution?
2. Name one branch of government.
3. We elect a U.S. senator for how many years?
4. Who is the chief justice of the United States?
5. What is one reason why colonists came to America?
6. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
7. Who is the vice president of the United States?
8. Who is the governor of your state?
9. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

(Answers are on page 4.)

Newsweek recently asked 1,000 Americans basic questions from the citizenship test and 38 percent flunked it! Would you pass the test?

What Our ESOL Students Have to Say About What They Have Learned

This spring we surveyed some of our English as a Second Language students about what they have learned. Here are some comments they wrote down on our survey.

What do you like most about learning at LNNY?

"I like talking, grammar ... all. I am comfortable with my classes."

"The teacher is very nice."

"I like the interaction and this helps for pronunciation, grammar."

How has what you learned at LNNY helped you in like most about learning at LNNY your life?

"The LNNY staff has helped me to have confidence in myself by allowing me to make mistakes and

correcting me along the way. I like coming to class for many reasons: The teacher calls on me to read and explains what I've read. She gives ... homework, which allows me to better understand what I'm doing."

"I feel my English is much better now. I can talk with my (American) husband more about different subjects."

"It helped me to get a job!"



Our ESOL class recently took a trip to the Jefferson County Historical Society.

Students Enjoy Volunteering at Calcium Primary's Multicultural Fair



Two students from Calcium Primary were eager to learn how to do origami. Our adult students, Erika and Mariko, enjoyed helping out at the event.

Two of our students, Erika and Mariko, volunteered to help Jefferson/Lewis Program Manager Deborah Tate staff a table at Calcium Primary's Multicultural Fair in March. Mariko showed the students how to do origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.

Erika, a native of Brazil, brought many items from her homeland for the children to enjoy. Deborah, Erika and Mariko enjoyed the international lunch served at the event.

We are lucky to have students who enjoy giving back to our program by volunteering at events such as these.

ESOL Tutor Tip: A Fun Activity for the Senses



What does it smell like? See if the student can guess what the item is. This is a fun activity to use with ESOL students of all levels.

Materials:
Several small containers to hold liquids and dry items
Various kitchen products that have a distinct aroma such as

Spices:

Pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, cloves,

nutmeg, onion powder, etc.

Liquids:

Lemon juice, orange juice, vinegar, cherry drink, etc.

Fruit:

Grapes, raisins, etc.
Number each container and make a list on a sheet of paper corresponding to each number. Pass out one sheet to your student(s).

Procedure:

Do not let the student see the contents; you can instruct your student to close his

or her eyes. Have the student smell the contents and describe what he or she smells, how it smells, and texture if you want- this is the challenging part. Beside the corresponding number on the sheet, the student writes a description of the smell or aroma of the contents with the item name.



difficult to describe smells, odors, and aromas.

strong, sweet, tangy, tart, tasteless, tasty.



Language Skills:

This is great for learning vocabulary and adjectives. It is challenging for the student because it is

Examples:

Acidic, bitter, cool, delicious, gooey, creamy, hot, juicy, mild, nutty, peppery, ripe, salty, savory, sour, spicy, sticky,

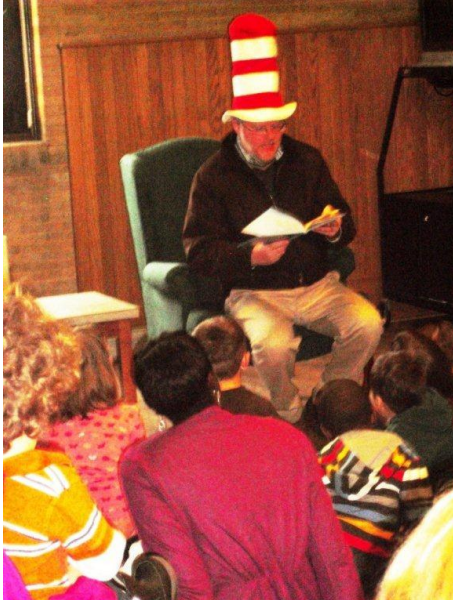
Answers to the Citizenship Questions:

1. Bill of Rights.
2. Legislative, executive or judicial.
3. 6 years
4. John Roberts
5. Freedom, religious freedom, political liberty, economic opportunity, escape persecution.
6. Thomas Jefferson.
7. Joe Biden
8. Andrew Cuomo
9. July 4, 1776

“Reading is a means of thinking with another person’s mind; it forces you to stretch your own.”

~ Charles Scribner Jr.

Celebrating Dr. Seuss: An Annual Tradition



March is the time of year when we conduct our Dr. Seuss reading celebrations with children and their parents. At left, Board Member Allen Goudie reads a Dr. Seuss book to preschoolers and their parents at our Dr. Seuss celebration at Flower Memorial Library.

Assemblywoman Addie Russell also read a book at the event.

Every child attending received a free book from Literacy of Northern New York and had a chance to meet the Cat in the Hat.

Board Member Karin Martinez invited LNNY to read a Dr. Seuss book to first graders at Guardino Elementary School in Clayton. Jefferson/Lewis Program Manager dressed up as the Cat in the Hat and read to the children.

Computers Make Learning Fun!

Tutor Pamela Stoeber has volunteered to teach two students how to use computers. One of her students, Tatyana, who is Russian, is learning word processing and typing skills.

A new trend at LNNY is students are bringing in their laptops, which they don't know how to use, and want to learn how to use social

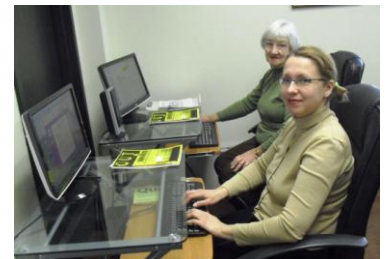
media and e-mail. These are great tools for helping students improve their writing skills as well as assisting them with staying in touch with friends and family members who live far away.

Lorna, who is in her 60s, learned how to use her e-mail and view pictures and video attachments her friends and family sent her. She is one

hip grandma!

Our computer lab contains software to help students learn the keyboard, listen to classic books, learn how to sound out words or improve their pronunciation of words in English.

Tutors interested in using the computer lab should call the office and make an appointment to check out our many resources.



Tatyana, who is from Siberia, enjoys learning about computers from her tutor, Pamela Stoeber.

It's Time to Test What Students Have Learned

Literacy of Northern New York,
200 Washington Street
Watertown, NY
13601

PHONE:
(315) 782-4270

FAX:
(315) 782-1394

LEWIS:
(315) 376-8188

E-MAIL:
literacyvolunteers@verizon.net

The staff at Literacy of Northern New York has been testing students who have been in the program for a while to see what they have learned. We are required by the NYS Department of Education to post-test at least 72 percent of our students. In the past few years the percentage of students we have to

retest has gone up annually.

If a student repeatedly fails to show up to be retested, we will contact the tutor to see if we can test the student at one of your tutoring sessions. We realize nobody likes to take a test, but it is important to see what skills the student is learning

and what materials might help them work on areas of weakness.

It is a great boost to a student's self-esteem to hear that they have improved their reading, math or language skills. It's also wonderful for tutors to learn that their volunteer efforts are truly making a difference!

Student is Proud to be Named Our Student of the Month

Every month we nominate one of our students as "Student of the Month" and put their picture on our web page. One tutor whose student was recently nominated e-

mailed us to say, "Michael was humbled but proud to be March Student of the Month! It seemed to boost his self-confidence."

If your student has reached a goal

such as getting a job, finishing a workbook, becoming more active in the community, reading to their children, etc., let us know. Perhaps your student will be our next student of the month.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.proliteracynny.org

LITERACY OF NNY
200 Washington St.
Suite 303
Watertown NY 13601

