

LITERACY MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2022



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

What You'll Find in this Issue:

Summer Intensive Program	2
Meet Our New OG Cohort	3
Happy Birthday	3
Amazon Smile	4

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BACK TO SCHOOL

(by Kate Quijano)

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We have been very busy preparing this summer. We held four orientations for new volunteers interested in tutoring with us. We also held three English Language Learners (ELL) tutor training workshops, where new ELL tutors learned about our curriculum and characteristics of adult English Language Learners in each level of classes we provide. We also held a Basic Literacy training where new BL tutors learned about multisensory reading instruction and how to work with adult learners who are beginning readers and writers.

We plan to be completely back to in-person classes for the fall session. We have 32 ELL classes and 2 citizenship classes scheduled at various libraries throughout Nassau County. Our BL groups will continue meeting either in libraries or coffee shops. We are also looking forward to reopening more of our Next Chapter Book Clubs for adults with developmental disabilities.

Our contract work with various Long Island school districts has expanded

tremendously in the last couple years. Therefore, two of our part-time Orton-Gillingham tutors will be joining us full time beginning in September. They will travel to different schools throughout the day to provide one to one OG services. They will work with elementary through high school aged students.

We also welcomed a new cohort of tutors for our associate level Orton-Gillingham training. They spent a week training with us over the summer. They were then matched with an elementary aged student that they will tutor over the course of this school year as part of their practicum experience. They will meet for a total of 100 sessions. Students who have been matched with trainees are part of our unique donation-based tutoring program. Families are able to access OG instruction (which would typically cost \$150-200 per session) at a donation-based rate that they can afford. This program makes an enormous impact on the life of a child with dyslexia or other language-based learning disabilities.

(Meet the cohort on page 3!)



THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi everyone,

Summer is rapidly ending, taking the baseball season with it. Many of you know that my family actively follows the Cape Cod Baseball League and our hometown team, the Brewster Whitecaps. This year, my girls were old enough to be batkids, and my husband and I expected that it would be fun, but were surprised to find that the experience was chock full of life skills, too. My younger daughter, Julie, learned the value of hard work, as each game was roughly 3 hours long and required her to constantly focus on when to run out to retrieve foul balls or discarded bats. My oldest, Haley, learned an even more important lesson. She was a batgirl when our team lost the championship game. She was tempted to be personally crushed by the loss, but didn't want to upset the baseball players (kids who are roughly 10 years older than her!), so she congratulated them for trying their best. It was a moment of great pride for me! I told them both to bring these lessons into the new school year, so I offer them up to you as well.

Work hard with your student and give yourself grace when you stumble or fall. Here's to a great school year!

Karen 😊



My kids are growing up so fast, but it was not as evident to me just how mature they had become until they embraced their role as batkids for the Cape League this summer.

ORTON-GILLINGHAM SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM

(submitted by Melissa Sansobrino)

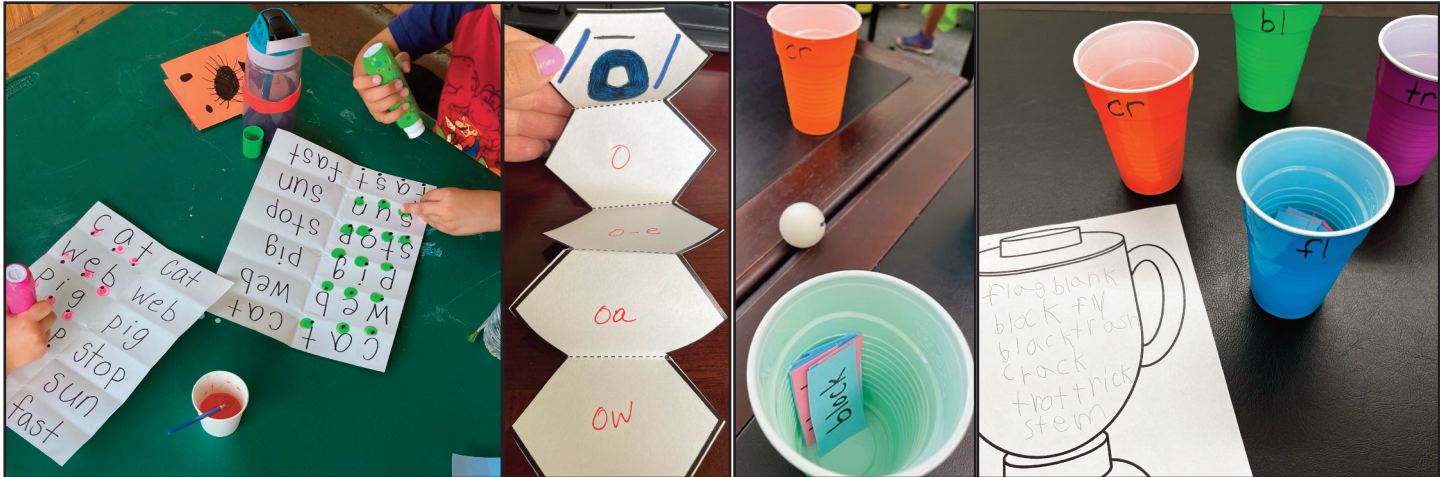
My name is Melissa Sansobrino and I am a full-time Orton-Gillingham tutor for Literacy Nassau. This summer, I had the pleasure of being a part of Literacy Nassau's OG Summer Intensive Program as both a teacher and the on-site supervisor for session 2. This is the second year of our summer program, which ended on August 19th. This summer we were thrilled to host nearly 30 children over two different 3-week sessions and teach them techniques for better reading and spelling through the Orton-Gillingham approach. Our students had the opportunity to participate in OG lessons customized to their skill level, engage in fun lesson extension activities, and do arts, crafts, and sports.

As a supervisor for the summer program, I have had the honor of seeing all our wonderful teachers and students in action and witnessing the benefits that a program such as ours can bring. Using the Orton-Gillingham approach, our teachers created lessons individualized to the skill level of their group and extended the practice of the lessons with fun activities. For example, Mary Baumgarten, the teacher for our introductory level students, practiced vowel sounds and building words using letter tiles and Legos. She used dot paint to practice CVC words and board games to reinforce reading fluency. Kaitlyn Beleckas and Rich Aizer, our intermediate level teachers, practiced reading consonant blends with "Blendy Bounce" a ping pong-like game that encouraged proper blending of the introductory blends in common words.

In my group, our advanced level students had the chance to review the 6 syllable types and extend their practice with rounds of OG Uno. In this game, students matched cards based on color or syllable type of the word printed on the cards. The friendly competition was a nice break from the rigors of classroom learning. In other lessons, we created "sound accordions," where students were asked to list all the spelling choices that exist for a particular sound in a paper accordion. These multisensory tools allow students to reinforce the skills they learn in their OG lessons in a fun and relaxed way and give them a new perspective on the concepts. We hope the OG Summer Intensive Class of 2022 had a great summer at Literacy Nassau, and we hope to see them again in 2023!



Left to right: Mary, Melissa, Izabella, Kaitlyn, Richard and Kate



Top: Dot painting with CVC words, "Sound Accordions," and "Blendy Bounce."
Below: Students decorated "syllable counter" instruments and used them to break words into syllables. They learned about different syllable types and worked together during "sports" time to read several words from each.





INTRODUCING OUR 2022-23 ORTON-GILLINGHAM COHORT

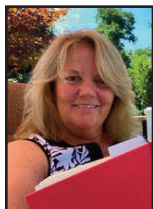
We asked our new cohort of OG tutor trainees to tell us about what brought them to Literacy Nassau and why they were interested in training with us. Here is what they said:



Jenilee Santiago: I have been teaching for many years and have always found literacy exciting. I chose to participate in this program because I wanted to instill the love of reading in others. With hard work and dedication anyone can do it!



Donna Rocco: I wanted to obtain my Orton-Gillingham Associate Level certification so that I could further support my son with dyslexia and so that I could help other struggling readers build their confidence and find success and enjoyment in reading.



Margaret Mosher: As an educator, learning about Orton-Gillingham's multi-sensory, structured approach to teach and reinforce reading and writing skills will help make me a better teacher. I look forward to working with my mentors, peers, families, and students to make my time at Literacy Nassau a success!



Madia Lamontagne: I am a mother of four, educator and life long learner. As a learner with dyslexia, I am very passionate about the work and services Literacy Nassau strives to provide to disadvantaged learners within our community. It is such a privilege to be part of such a wonderful program.



Sheila Saad: My background is in engineering, but having a dyslexic son has helped shift my focus. I look forward to learning how to effectively teach struggling readers, and to help families see that most people are capable of learning to read with appropriate instruction.



Stephanie Trees: I am an early intervention guided reading specialist. I decided to embark on the journey to become an Associate Level trainee in the Orton-Gillingham approach so I can help all students become the best readers they can be.



Ruby Klein: I am so excited to begin my Associate level training at Literacy Nassau. I work as a speech-language pathologist at a public school, providing fun phonological awareness lessons to small groups. In my spare time I love going to fitness classes and spending time with my 2-year-old niece.



Laurie Nordby: As a teacher I am always looking for the best way to reach every child. My background is in special education and literacy. I have used many programs in the past. The OG approach fits in perfectly with my methodology in that I believe each student is different and needs to be taught in a way that best suits them.



Melissa Buchberger: I am so excited to be part of Literacy Nassau's Orton-Gillingham Associate Level training cohort this year. I love being a teacher and helping children learn. I look forward to seeing how much the students achieve this year!



Catherine Milner: I am a Special Education teacher with the DOE, and I have been working with students with disabilities for 10+ years. I'm excited to join the Literacy Nassau cohort this year and work with children to help them recognize their potential.

PROUD TUTOR MOMENT



This is a picture of my Level 2 class. They learned to read the poem "Maytime Magic." I am very proud of them. - From tutor, Carol Kessler (center)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Warm Birthday Wishes to our Tutors!

Maria Acosta – Lisa Adams – Sam Antar – Lillian Baum
Michelle Berman – Toni Cangialosi – Lisa Chieco – Janice Collins
Carol Cook – Janice Donoghue – Rhea Epstein – Leslie Feinberg
Kelly Filippone – Nancy Friedman – Laura Garcia – Ann Gordon
Freya Grice – Elinor Haber – Jean Heinz – Cynthia Katz
Linda Klein – Joy Kurtz – Margaret Latronica – Kathy Leibowitz
Mary Ellen LoConte – Alison Marooney – Lois Miceli
Irv Miljoner – Paul Nelson – Karla Solomon – Denise Phillips
Linda Pierce – Rona Rappe – Marcy Ruggiero – Irwin Scharf
Arlyne Skolnik – Jenn Starzynski – Lois Thomas
Janine Washinger – Loretta White – Colleen Woodell





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FALL ELL CLASS START DATES

MONTH : **SEPTEMBER**

<input type="radio"/> MONDAY <input type="radio"/> CLASS BEGINS <input type="text" value="9/26"/>	<input type="radio"/> TUESDAY <input type="radio"/> CLASS BEGINS <input type="text" value="9/27"/>
<input type="radio"/> WEDNESDAY <input type="radio"/> CLASS BEGINS <input type="text" value="9/28"/>	<input type="radio"/> THURSDAY <input type="radio"/> CLASS BEGINS <input type="text" value="9/29"/>
<input type="radio"/> FRIDAY <input type="radio"/> CLASS BEGINS <input type="text" value="9/30"/>	<input type="radio"/> SATURDAY <input type="radio"/> CLASS BEGINS <input type="text" value="10/1"/>
<input type="radio"/> SUNDAY <input type="radio"/> NO CLASSES - <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> NOTE <input type="text"/>



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