



# THE OG UPDATE

MARCH 2026

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR UPCOMING CSE MEETING

(submitted by Megan Best, OG Tutor)

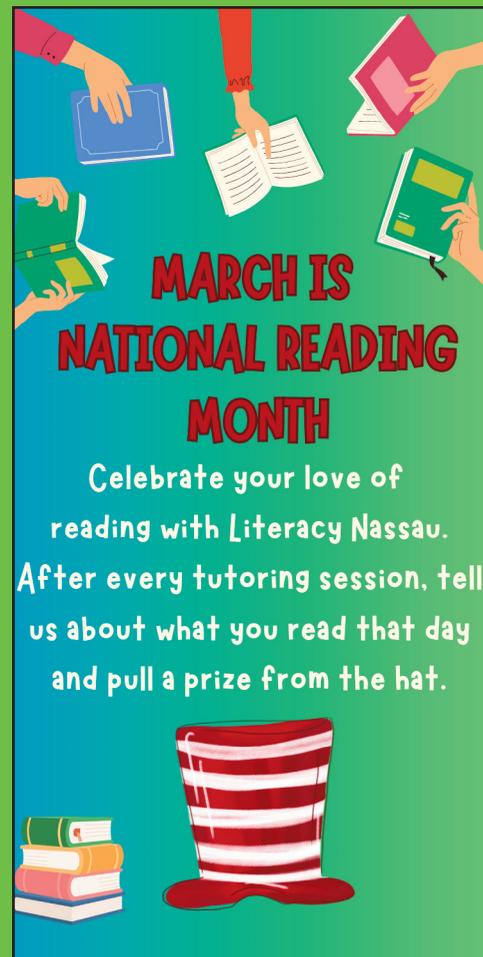
As CSE season approaches, many are wondering how to make the most of their upcoming CSE meetings. As a former Special Education teacher, I have learned my fair share of what to look out for when advocating for your student.

- 1) Prepare ahead of time: Prior to the CSE meeting, review the student's current IEP and highlight and/or annotate any inconsistencies you find, or questions you may have. Ask about progress made regarding IEP goals, and request evidence as needed.
- 2) Parent Voice: Ensure that your concerns are taken seriously by stating them clearly, and asking the CSE team to address these concerns with an explicit plan on the IEP. For example, "\_\_\_\_\_ is not making sufficient progress with reading and it is impeding his/her academic growth as well as impacting his/her social-emotional well-being." Concerns can be addressed in a variety of ways, including through IEP goals, related services, management needs and/ or testing accommodations. If the team refuses to acknowledge the deficit, you have a right to request neuropsychological testing to provide further evidence of a need for services.
- 3) Student Needs: Best practice requires that each student need mentioned on the IEP has a goal to address that need. So, if the IEP mentions the student has a difficult time remaining on task, then there should be a goal to address that deficit. Remember that IEP goals can be academic, social-emotional, or behavioral.
- 4) Related Services: If the CSE team wants to reduce or remove services, request evidence of relevant student progress in the form of work samples, data charts, or anecdotes.
- 5) Questions you may ask to facilitate the CSE process can include:
  - Does my child require academic, behavioral or social-emotional support in the classroom? If so, what does that support look like?



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## MARCH IS NATIONAL READING MONTH



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Saturday,  
March 14

OG training  
for trainees

Monday, March 16  
Orton-Gillingham  
Summer Intensive  
Program Open  
House



Literacy Nassau's OG Summer  
Intensive Program

**HAVE FUN** OPEN HOUSE

Learn all about our Orton-Gillingham  
program and tour our center.

MONDAY, MARCH 16  
MONDAY, APRIL 13  
6:00-7:00PM

To sign up email Kate at:  
kquijano@literacynassau.org

Literacy Nassau  
1 Ivy Lane in Wantagh  
(516) 867-3580



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HEAVENLY

(submitted by Andrea, OG Trainee)

Heavenly brings positivity, determination, and a bright smile to every session. She works hard, stays engaged, and continues to grow as a reader. One of her personal goals is simple yet powerful: to read better — and she is making wonderful progress toward that goal.

During OG sessions, Heavenly especially enjoys working on sight words, where her confidence continues to blossom. Her persistence and willingness to try even when tasks are challenging truly stands out.

Outside of tutoring, Heavenly has a wide range of interests:

**Favorite movie:** The Incredibles

**Favorite book:** Cinderella

**Favorite color:** Pink

**Favorite sport:** Tennis

**Favorite activities:** Playing on her laptop and spending time on the playground

Heavenly also has a big heart and loves time with the people she cares about most. She enjoys helping her family — even making dinner — and treasures moments with friends at school. At home, she loves her doll Pearl and her puppy Violet.

If Heavenly could choose a superpower, she'd love to be invisible and run really fast — just like a cheetah! That same speed and energy shows up in her learning as she continues to strengthen her skills.

We are so proud of Heavenly's hard work, growth, and joyful spirit. Keep shining, Heavenly — your future is bright! ✨



Heavenly's Snowman Craft



### **FEBRUARY WRITING FUN ACTIVITY**

Students practiced their writing and spelling skills by writing something they love on a heart. They all put their hearts together to create a large heart display in our tutoring center, sharing with us all the people and things they love.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KENNEDY

(submitted by Lisbeth & Richard, OG Tutors)

Kennedy was first a student in our Orton-Gillingham Summer Intensive Program in 2025. She enjoyed attending and her family began to see improvements in her reading skills. She was then accepted into our donation-based OG program in September and began tutoring.

When she started tutoring at Literacy Nassau, she didn't like to read, describing it as "too hard." Through her hard work, and the dedication of her parents, she's now a fluent and happy reader. At the beginning she was reading below third grade level. She's now reading above those levels and is planning to take advanced reading courses in school. During Kennedy's OG tutoring sessions, she is working on beginning consonant blends and ending consonant blends. She's a success story and we are very proud of her.

We have enjoyed getting to know Kennedy and we hope you do also. She likes jumping rope with her friends and plays the violin. She also enjoys making bracelets, rings, and necklaces during her afterschool program. **Pink** is her favorite color and she has two pet fish at home. Kennedy's favorite subject in school is Physical Education.

Kennedy has not yet discovered a favorite book, but she does have a favorite genre. She loves reading fantasy and fairy tales! Something else she loves during her OG sessions is taking turns reading theater scripts created just for by her tutor - the sillier and more dramatic the better!



## UPCOMING CSE MEETINGS (CONTINUED)

- How can we build support into my student's program to increase independence during the school day? (visual cues, timers, additional services, assistive technology, class ratio, etc.)

- Are the related services on the prior IEP still needed? How can they be updated or adjusted to meet the current needs of my child?

- Does my student still have the same management needs and/or testing accommodations as on the previous IEP? How can the management needs and/or testing accommodations be updated to reflect the current needs of my student?

Remain open-minded during the CSE process. Keep in mind that the entire team is working together for the benefit of your child, and any information you can bring to the table about your child is beneficial to the team as they create a program that allows your child to reach his/her maximum potential throughout the school year.

