

## Literacy of Northern New York March 2022 Newsletter

### Update on ESL Classes

Due to the high Covid-19 case numbers in our region after the holiday season, we have temporarily switched our Monday/Wednesday ESL class in Watertown to a remote class on Zoom. We have also switched our Fort Drum Beginner class on Tuesday and Thursday morning to Zoom. We expect to return to in-person classes in the Spring.



Most of the tutors in both counties are working in-person, which is encouraging.

### Job Zone

We are introducing students to the NYS Department of Labor's **Job Zone** website. The site contains a lot of good resources. We created a simple PowerPoint presentation to get students familiar with some of the features on Job Zone. We limit our lesson to two or three links and explore those. For example, after putting in their zip code, students can find out where the closest Department of Labor office is located. In Watertown, it is The Workplace on Coffeen Street. We can then choose another area to explore. That can be "Creating a Simple Resume" or "Training Programs in Your Area."

Deborah has used the site with her reading/math student and an ESL student so far. One student explored the Budgeting and Simple Resume sections, registered for Job Zone and is working on her resume. The other student explored salaries and jobs in Computer Science.



### Success Stories



#### Rosa

Rosa is now studying online at Empire State College and is taking an English literature course. As part of the course work, students have to recite poems while creating a dramatic mood. In the photo at left, Rosa takes her presentation to heart and dresses in a Day of the Dead theme for her presentation. The video she created is amazing – somber music, candles, dimmed lights as she recites "I Could Not Stop for Death," by Emily Dickenson. Rosa is working with a tutor and also attending ESL classes in Watertown.

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### Nikki C

We told you in another newsletter that Nikki, a former ESL student in Deborah's classes, graduated from the nursing program at Jefferson Community College and was hired at Samaritan Medical Center in the Surgical Department. Nikki continued her studies and just completed the requirements for a Bachelor's degree in Nursing.

### Emma

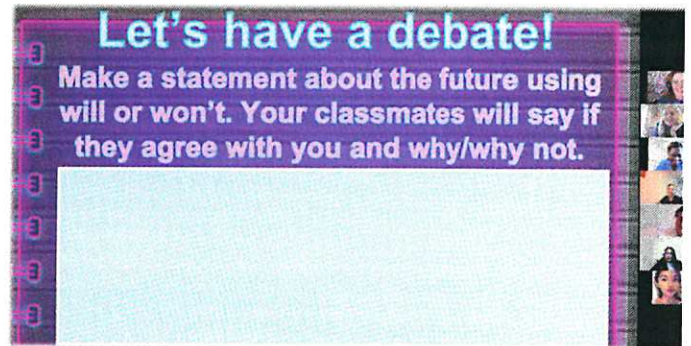
Emma works with Michelle on math and reading. Emma recently was post-tested and improved two grade levels in math!

### Avis

Avis works with Cecilia in reading, math, and now computer skills. They are using the Barton Reading and Spelling System. Avis had no computer skills but Cecilia is using both GFC Learn Free (an online resource with multiple free online courses) and Northstar Digital Literacy. Soon, Avis will be able to use his laptop.

## Fort Drum News

With winter weather at Drum still in full force, our Beginner ESL class continues on Zoom as a more accessible and popular opportunity for students to stay engaged in both lessons and class connections. Katie Yang continues to lead the Tuesday Beginner's class in engaging lessons with a February unit focused on inventions and the future as students practice sharing their knowledge and opinions through structured, friendly class debate. LNNY Program Assistant Paige Konoza uses the Thursday class as an opportunity to utilize the Health Stories series, which addresses medical-related topics students may encounter at home, at work or at health-related appointments. Students have given positive feedback in regards to their increasing confidence in addressing the health needs of both themselves and their children.



The Fort Drum Intermediate class continues to meet in person and is gearing up to begin a new Work Ready series to better equip students with confidence in their understanding of American employment and workforce vocabulary as well as expectations related to resumes, interviews, and workplace culture across a variety of industries. They will also explore Job Zone, a NYS website that contains many useful resources for students seeking employment. As a class, we are hopeful that this will benefit students looking to enter the workforce, seeking promotions within their field, and/or desiring to change their career course in the future.

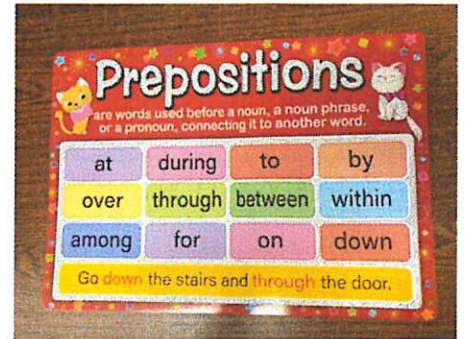


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## New ESL Materials

We have exciting new texts for ESL students. If you are interested, stop by the office.

**Charts** ~ A selection of simple charts including Articles, Prepositions, Verbs, Nouns, Interjections, Conjunctions, Pronouns, Parts of Speech, and Adjectives. They are bright and simple, and a useful tool to use with students.



American Idiom and Slang has activities so the learner is not just learning the idiom in isolation.

ESL Worksheets is full of lesson supplemental activities, one page each, on a variety of topics.

