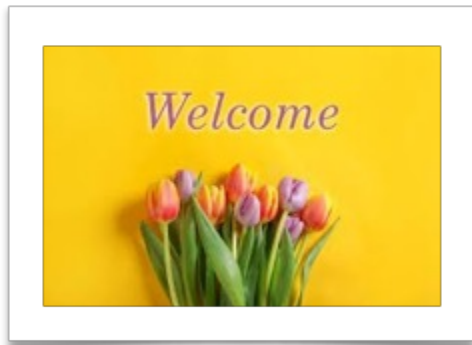


Literacy of Northern New York Newsletter June 2024



Technology Grant

The Fort Drum Thrift Store awarded a \$2,127 grant to Literacy of Northern New York. We will use the money to purchase four laptop computers, 4 headphones, antivirus software and Microsoft Office for the new computers. Students who attend our Fort Drum classes will use the laptops for research, search for jobs, and do class projects. We deeply appreciate the support from the Fort Drum Thrift Store and its Board of Directors for awarding us this much needed grant.



Welcome to Our New Tutors

Erin Pfeffer, a medical student from Samaritan, completed our online tutor training and is helping a student with reading and writing skills.

Nancy Carlson completed the online training and is working with a low-beginner student from Haiti. It helps low-level students when they have one-to-one tutoring because they can get the much-needed extra attention.

It is Garage Sale Time!

Watertown Savings Bank is hosting a **garage sale on Saturday June 8**, in the garage behind their 111 Clinton Street bank in Watertown. Proceeds benefit food pantries in Jefferson County and our program. If you have items you want to donate, please call our office or contact Board Member Denise Randall, who works at the bank. Denise's cell phone number is: 315-783-5727. Thank you to those who have already donated. Cecilia will be out of the office Thursday June 6 – Friday June 7, attending a conference in Cortland, so nobody will be in the Watertown office on those days.

Tutor Recruitment

We have started a new tutor recruitment campaign to meet the needs of the increased enrollment numbers. We posted on Facebook, in the community

calendars, and mailed flyers to libraries and churches in Jefferson and Lewis counties about tutor recruitment, our services, and the class schedule for English language learners.

If you know someone who would like to help out one or two hours per week, please pass on our information.



The Watertown classes enjoying a class party

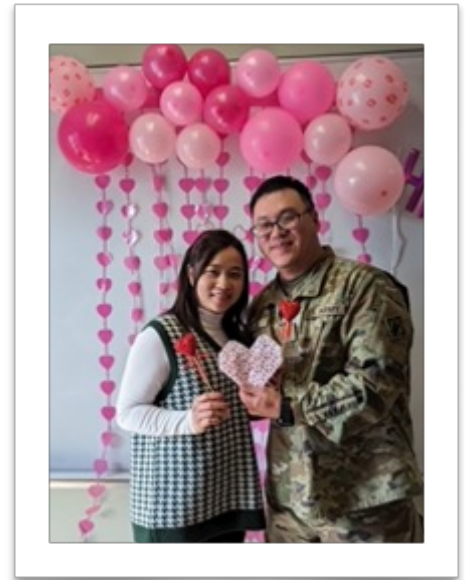
Current Enrollment Trends

It has been a truly active time at both Fort Drum and the Watertown office. Our student enrollment is robust with a stream of new students, many of whom are

from Haiti. These students are here on a humanitarian visa. They are provided with a Social Security number so they can work. The majority of the Haitian students have already found jobs. Fort Drum also has several new students from Haiti. They are here because they have relatives connected to Fort Drum

The Haitian students speak Creole, French, and some speak Spanish. However, they are not the only French-speaking new students. We have new students from West Africa, including Senegal and Togo. The French element makes for a dramatic shift in the classes, from primarily Spanish-speaking students to French-speaking students.

We are extremely grateful to tutors Martie McDowell, Juli Reed-Keegan, and Barb Zembiec. They have all been teaching classes to provide services to some of the new students. Juli and Barb teach low-beginner students whereas Martie is teaching four students individually, all at different levels.



Fort Drum students celebrating at a Valentine's Day party - Lan Doan (left) & her husband, Sunyoung Kim



Fort Drum students at the Calcium Primary School Multicultural Day, displaying boards depicting their countries

Fort Drum News

Fort Drum ESL students participated in the Multicultural Day at Calcium Primary School in April. During several classes, students created posterboards about their country of origin. They did research online about their country and printed out pictures. They enjoyed speaking about their country of origin to students and teachers at Calcium Primary School.

Recently, two students from our program successfully secured jobs. Intermediate student Johannmarie got hired by Burlington. Beginner student Valentina got hired by UPS. Both still attend our classes as their schedule allows. Intermediate student Lan passed the ASVAB military exam and joined the US Army.

Watertown Monday/Wednesday Classes



Volunteer Tanya Wells (left) & Fort Drum Program Assistant



Both classes have increased enrollment with the shift changing from Spanish-speaking students to French-speaking students. The students are very motivated and quite lively in class. They have made new friends and a group of students played soccer for two days one weekend at the YMCA. Many of the students have gotten jobs, which is great for them, but they are missed by the others in class.

We Have So Many Great Student Success Stories to Report

You can see how hard our students have been working. Many got jobs, others got a Learner's Permit or Driver's License, entered training or enrolled in courses, and many improved their English fluency skills!

- Yurley went up an English language level and is taking the **Phlebotomist course**.
- Al-Adle obtained a Learner's Permit.
- Angeline is taking an online Cosmetology course.
- Santa got a job at Avigen.
- Madeleiner passed her **driver's license** test in Sept. 2023 and began driving herself to class instead of relying on a ride from somebody else. She also improved her English language skills and obtained a job. She is **applying to become a U.S. citizen**.
- Sheila went up an educational level and obtained a **part-time job**.
- Pinar improved her English language skills and enrolled in an **MBA program**.
- Zaima obtained a **phlebotomist certification**.
- Jerland improved one English language level and obtained a **job at Little Caesar's Pizza**.
- Leandro improved his English skills and obtained a **driver's license**.
- Akissi obtained her **driver's license**.

- Lucero improved her English skills by one level and obtained a **job delivering packages for Amazon.**
- Micheline improved her English language skills. Her tutor took her to Flower Memorial Library and Micheline obtained a **library card** and became familiar with the resources there. Her tutor also helped her learn how to **use her new phone**, read schedules, discuss health issues with a doctor, etc.
- Stephanie improved her literacy skills and obtained a **full-time job at the ARC as a direct support professional.**
- Edi **improved his English language skills.**
- Yasmine improved her English language skills and obtained a **job at the PX on Fort Drum.**
- Alix improved his English skills and was accepted in the **C.N.A. training program** at Samaritan Medical Center. He is also **working at EZ Stak.**
- Vanessa obtained a **driver's license** and obtained a **job at Target.** She also improved her literacy skills.
- Emmanuella improved her English skills and obtained a **job at Walmart.**
- Carolina obtained a job **working at Clair's at the mall.**
- Fara improved her English skills and completed a five-day a **week C.N.A. training program** in January 2024. She currently works at a nursing home. She was accepted into the **Nursing program at JCC and will start this fall.**
- Babacar started **his own driving service business** and also improved his English language skills. Babacar has referred numerous students to our program.
- Edith obtained her **driver's license.**
- Rhode obtained her **driver's license.**
- Avis improved his reading and math skills.
- Manuel improved his English skills and is attending **American Military University.**
- Angeline improved her English and obtained a job as a **hair dresser.**
- Nichole **improved her English by one level.**



Inez (left) & Bruna count U.S. coins during class.



Pharah and Al Adle from the Watertown Intermediate class

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