



The Insider, the monthly newsletter of LVA Essex & Passaic Counties, will keep you in the loop on all of the organization's upcoming events.



Dustin Dumas-Weeks, producer of SOMAtv's "Dustin's Kaleidoscope" will film a segment on LVA this month. The show will air on local stations and be posted on YouTube.

Literacy Volunteers of America Essex & Passaic Counties

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The Insider

Greetings LVA family and happy winter!

If the Polar Vortex, upper tropospheric winds and contrasts between graupel and sleet have left you cold and confused, join the club. It's been a long, tough winter, even by Jersey standards.

Of course, even wicked winter weather can present learning opportunities for students. Check out these websites for a sample of learning games, puzzles and assignments, all related to our frigid temps.

http://bogglesworldesl.com/winter_worksheets.htm

<http://www.esolcourses.com/content/topics/weather/3/wordsearch.html>

http://www.everythingesl.net/lessons/winter_puzzles.php

And don't forget to check our Facebook page, before you travel, for the latest list of weather-related library closures. Stay safe!

"If you can read this, thank a teacher."

Anonymous

"Adult Literacy Overlooked by Congress:"
ProLiteracy

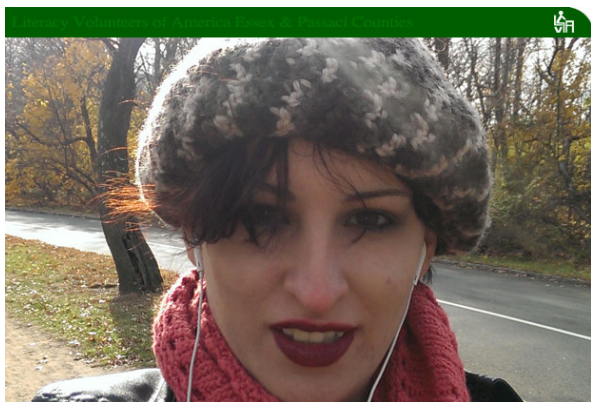
The nation's adult literacy needs have once again been overlooked by Congress, according to ProLiteracy, the country's largest adult literacy organization.

In a Jan. 29 statement, ProLiteracy expressed its dismay over a Congressional spending bill that cut the funding of adult education programs.

"The adult literacy field is yet again overlooked, left to claim that a cut of only \$30,000 is actually a win," Kevin Morgan, ProLiteracy's interim president and CEO, said in the statement.

Morgan added that a recent international report on the state of U.S. adult literacy should have provided Congress with the motivation to pass a bill that would make significant and lasting changes in adult literacy and basic education. But legislators failed to do so, he said.

"Adult Literacy Overlooked" continued on Page 2



Getting to Know Us

Abraham Flamenbaum, tutor, on student Rolando

Rolando, my student, is from Honduras. He left behind his family, including his wife and three children. Recently both his father and a sister-in-law passed away in Honduras. I knew it was difficult for him. I know he calls there every night. His job is pumping gas at a local station and he's out in all sorts of weather. He's been entrusted with opening the gas station. Rolando has no car so he uses a bicycle to travel. He uses it to get to classes, riding in bad weather, in darkness.

He says he's tired, yet he is there! He recently expressed that he cannot read a newspaper. We read some poetry and simple books. We do repetition drills, orally and written, breaking down words. Rolando is quite determined to learn. He does his homework as much as he can under the circumstances. I see some improvement. We recently shared the cost of a new dictionary. It's now an important part of his education. Lastly, he is really polite. Whether on the phone or in person, he'll say, "Thank you teacher," when the lesson is over. He's respectful. And that is beautiful to hear.

Carole Sklar, tutor, on her student, Maria

When Maria entered my group of "high beginners" in October 2013, it was clear to me she would be a bright addition. Our group engages in conversation natural to all people; talk of our past, our present needs and future hopes. Maria's strong love for her mother back in northern Brazil, (she is one of 15 children), and her love for her American husband and teenage daughter, are evident. One of her goals was to become an American citizen. Maria is the kind of person who focuses well on the job at hand. I had no doubt she would pass the exam she took on January 25th. And she did! Congratulations, Maria Jackson of Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Judy Tabs, tutor

I started tutoring my student a little over a year ago at the Bloomfield Library. She had just recently arrived in the U.S. from Iran with no family support in the United States. Her native tongue is Farsi and she is very anxious to learn English, get a job, and become integrated in the English speaking communities. To do so, she had to overcome many obstacles. She worked very hard in a very short time at this and I am happy to say that she is on the road to achieving her goal by enrolling in the Capri School for beauticians. Congrats!

Please feel free to share your students' success stories with us either by email or phone.

Tutoring with Technology

Need to make up a session or three but your student's out of town? Or maybe the Polar Vortex has you barricaded indoors.

Join us as LVA English conversation group leader Allie Willhard demonstrates the use of "Google Hangouts," for remote tutoring. The free Google technology includes screen-sharing and session recording.

Five Steps

McGraw-Hill education specialist Maxine McCormick will show us how to help students go from low literacy to a fourth-grade reading level in five steps: Maxine McCormick.

For dates and times of the workshops, see "Upcoming Events" on Page 3.

"Adult Literacy Overlooked" (cont. from Page. 1)

The report - "Time for the U.S. to Reskill?" - was issued by the The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in October 2013.

It found that low literacy skills among adults are more common in the United States than in other developed countries. The study found that one in six U.S. adults have low literacy skills, compared to one in 20 in Japan. It also linked low literacy skills to poverty.

The full report can be found at the following link:

http://skills.oecd.org/Survey_of_Adult_Skills_US.pdf

The new 2014 GED: FAQ

The General Education Development (GED) Testing Service is set to undergo a major overhaul. A new version of the high school equivalency test was introduced and administered nationwide for the first time last month. It is the first major change to the GED since 2002 and will be aligned to the latest Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Info from NJ Dept. of Education and GED Testing Service

Q. What are the GED tests?

A. The GED (General Educational Development) tests are designed by a national organization to measure skills and concepts associated with four years of regular high school instruction. Each test is developed by adult and secondary educators and subject matter specialists. Each of the five tests corresponds to the general framework of most high school curricula: writing skills, interpreting literature, social studies, science, and math.

Q. Why are changes being made to the GED/Adult education in New Jersey?

A. Major changes in the national GED Program will result in a more rigorous GED Test aligned to the Common Core State Standards and designed to ensure college and career readiness.

Q. What are some changes we can expect to see?

A. Reading more informational text as opposed to fiction. The previous standards did not specify the level of text that students should be reading. The Common Core demands that the text be of greater complexity than in the past. The reading lessons used to be highly supported by the teacher, but now the Common Core is asking students to grapple with more complex text on their own. It is not enough anymore to understand key ideas and details on a test, students must recognize writers craft and structure.

Q. Is the test available in Spanish?

A. Yes, however, candidates taking the Spanish editions of the GED Tests are also required to demonstrate fluency in English by passing the GED English Proficiency Test 6 with a minimum score of 40.

- Information relevant to educators working with GED candidates can be found at:
<http://www.gedtestingservice.com/educators>
- Link to visit for list of standards:
<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>
- For further information, please visit:
www.state.nj.us/education/students/adulted/faq.



Happy Valentine's Day from LVA!

Upcoming Events

Tutor Support Workshops

"Tutoring with Technology," by Allie Willhard

Part 1: Tuesday, Feb 25, 2014
Bloomfield Public Library, The Library Theater
90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
3:00-4:30 pm, repeated 6-7:30 pm

Part 2: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014
Bloomfield Public Library, The Library Theater
90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
3:00-4:30 pm, repeated 6:00-7:30 pm

"Five Steps" with Maxine McCormick

Bloomfield Public Library, March 24, 2014
3:00-4:30 pm, 2nd floor Conference Room
Repeated 6:00-7:30 pm, The Library Theater

Tutor Training Workshops

Bloomfield Public Library
Tuesday and Fridays, 10:15 am-1:15 pm
March 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 2014

West Orange Public Library
Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-4 pm
Apr 16, 23, 25, 30, May 7, 9, 2014

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