

# LVWC Student and Tutor News



LVWC location  
7 Elm Street, Westerly

## Literacy Volunteers of Washington County

7 Elm Street  
P.O. Box 245  
Westerly, RI 02891

401-596-9411

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org)

Join us!



We celebrate all our students and tutors who stuck with it this year.  
You rock!

Hanna A.	Grazia F.	Fenny L.	Allen S.	Kate C.	Jennifer M.
Ester A.	Igor G.	Sharon L.	Patricia T.	Teresa D.	Caroline M.
Samuel A.	Yamila G.	Tudit L.	Yau Mui Y.	Linda E.	Barbara O.
Manar A.	Yu Hong G.	Tammy L.	Erica Z.	Jaime G.	Sylvia P.
Irma A.	Martha G.	Ping L. Angle	Maggie Z.	Joe G.	Margaret R.
Lucrecia A.	Fnu H.	M.	Hannah Z.	Penny H.	Cheryl R.
Diana B.	Sousan H.	Sara M.	Daniel Z.	Anne H.	Hugh R.
Heather B.	Fauzan H.	Nataliya M.	Jianlin Z.	Isabella K.	Linda S.
Melissa B.	Sunil H.	Polly	Stanley Z.	Deborah K.	Anthony S.
Siqingaowa C.	Francky J.	Kai On P.	Susan B.	Katharine L.	Tony S.
Feng C.	Yeonho J.	Si En R.	Mary B.	Paula L.	Karen S.
Hong C.	Seung AhL.	Kristina R.	Joan B.	Pamela M.	Grace S.
Heena C.	Jiong L.	Erdenochir R.	Ellie G.	Paul M.	Kristen S.
Citlalli D.	Geovana L.	Rasha S.	Kathy B.	Jon M.	Eve W.
Joey D.	Xiufang L.	William S.	Joel C.	Kathleen M.	Steffanie W.
Bahar D.	Jie L.	Sindi S.	David C.	Katherine M.	

## Some Students Highlights

Yamila who attends Kathy's Mystic-Noank Conversation Class has graduated from Three Rivers in computer science and has been accepted at UCONN.

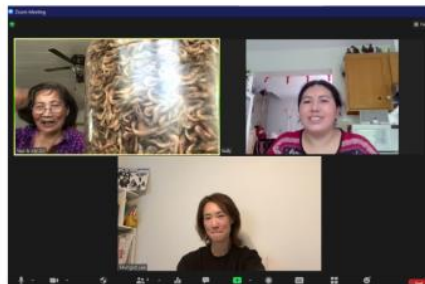
Genevieve continues to work hard with her tutor Sylvia to improve grammar, complexity in sentence structure, and proper verb tense use.

Congrats to our new citizen: Martha!

Seung has finished reading "Where the Red Fern Grows" with her tutor Pam.

Tudit and her tutor Kristen are working on her driver's license test.

Tammy continues to plow through another book with her tutor Eve.



“Only connect...”



We are here to help!  
Barbara and Theresa  
LVWC Literacy Specialists

## Tutor Tips

In earlier newsletters, we've emphasized two important strategies for successful tutoring. One is helping students feel comfortable in making mistakes. The other is doing more listening-to than talking-at your student. In this last column until September, I point out a third strategy: Building on your adult student's prior experience to enable meaningful learning.

As you know, we adults, by definition, unlike children, have more experiences embedded in our memories and meanings/attitudes attached to those experiences from our longer lifetimes. Our amazing brains (or the 100 billion neurons within) “scaffold” new experiences onto established memories. This is how the adult brain learns. The more we help our students make

meaningful connections between prior knowledge and new information, the more solid their learning will be.

A simple example of hooking new to established perceptions occurs when students use translators on their ubiquitous phones. They are trying to link new vocabulary to their prior knowledge, their native language. To help make this new information meaningful and “stick” in their brains, we reinforce it with a limited focus, repetition, further explanations, context, and student involvement. This physically paves the path into long term memory in the brain.

Of course, in processing experiences we adults usually have negative and positive feelings associated with our past experiences. Unlike many fearless children, we adults often enter the new and unknown with some trepidation. It's a good idea to explore these associations with your students. Finding out what they already know/feel about a topic or vocabulary word gives us the opportunity to build new links, correct some misconceptions, and soothe their fears.

The key reminder here is that understanding how the human brain works (generally!) can be a tool in helping adults learn English. Exploring what they already know and making connections between new and old can solidify their learning. Addressing their perceptions/attitudes surrounding prior experience can be a building block to new learning.

Have a great summer and let those synapses fire!

Barbara Heuer ☺

**Tutor Gatherings Coming Up  
2021-2022**

**September 27, 2021 at LVWC  
October 25, 2021 (TBA)  
November 29, 2021 at LVWC**

**11:30am-12:30pm**

**See you there IN PERSON!☺**

**[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/tutors](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/tutors)**

## OUR GARDEN

by Kai On & Yau Mui Pun  
Assisted by Ellie Brown & Paula Longo

"We have a garden. We grow beans. We grow peas and bok choy. We water in the morning. We like the sunshine and going to work in our garden." (As dictated to Paula)

As I (Ellie) go to the Puns' house for their lessons, Kai On was able to give me a tour of their garden.

Kai On related that after the last harvest in the fall, the garden soil is turned over in the late fall. The garden is fertilized with the fish remains from the fish that he caught throughout the summer and fall.

In the fall, the perennial, bok choy is cut back to one inch for the winter. Depending on weather conditions, this plant begins to sprout in late January or early February. When the bok choy grows tall enough, the Puns cut the plants down to about 6 inches as they use it. This way they have bok choy all season long. When Kai On and I went out to the garden in late April, he harvested a large bunch of bok choy for me. That evening, my husband stir-fried it with olive oil, garlic & onions.

Yummers!!! Like spinach, it cooks down so you need to pick a lot for each person. Another perennial in their garden is the American ginseng bush. In mid-April it still looked lifeless.

Scallions are planted in late March or early April. Kai On brings home from work the tops that have been cut off in his food preparations. They look vibrant and very green.

Snow peas are started in the house. The seeds are covered in water overnight. When the sprouts begin to appear, Yau Mui plants them in the garden, near the fence so the vines can climb. The temperature has to be between 45 and 50 degrees. She puts them 1 inch into the earth and puts a bit of fertilizer that they bought from Home Depot around each plant to help keep them warm. They

## Gardening with Kai On Pun and Yau Mui Yeung



also start bitter melon and winter squash seeds in the house. Again, the seeds are covered in water to sprout.

They also start squash seeds in the house. In mid-April, the squash seedlings are also planted near the fence so they can climb the fence and grow onto an arbor that Kai On has built over the top front part of the garden. To protect the tender shoots from the cold, they surround the plants with a bit of plastic, Saran wrap, I think.

The small, bright green clumps are chives. They also cut the chives to about an inch as they use them for cooking. They also cut the chives so they don't get too tall and scraggly.

Kai On said that they grow a type of radish that they pickle. To make a quart of pickled radishes, combine the radish roots with 1 cup vinegar, garlic, salt and pepper.

Both Kai On & Yau Mui take great pride in their garden. Each row is neat and weedless. Kai On built Yau Mui a cleaning table that has a water spigot attached for easy cleaning of produce and fish.

All summer their neighbors and I have enjoyed produce from their garden. A very special treat.

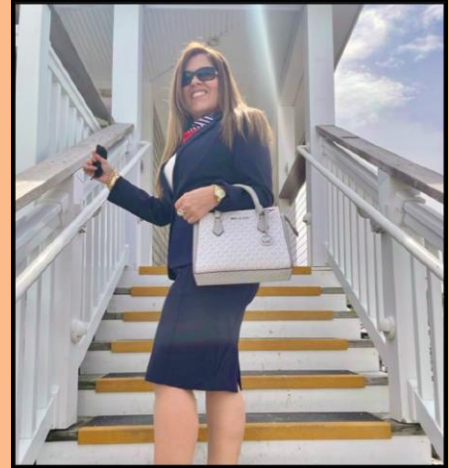


# Tips for Students from Students

## *Thanks to Fenny, Tudy, Irma, and Martha*

### Improving English:

- Read newspapers
- Use a translator
- Watch videos
- Listen to music is English lyrics
- Write down new words as you hear them, look them up later, and practice them
- Watch movies and TV in English
- Find reading material that interests you
- Practice even when you don't want to
- Use the LVWC Learning Resources page for materials and activities
- Irma credits her native language of Quechua with her pronunciation of English



Martha poses in her citizenship exam outfit on her way to a celebratory lunch. 😊

### Preparing for Citizenship:

- Know your stuff
- Don't forget your listening skills. Listen to the civics questions in English because they may ask you civics questions
- Know your N-400 form. They may ask you questions about your answers on that form
- Learned N-400 language and civics questions in native language first then in English
- Listen every day to N-400 vocabulary and civics questions
- Memorize all vocabulary in the N-400
- Prepare with *Studying with Fernando* YouTube channel if your first language is Spanish
- Dress your best

## Summer Hours

The LVWC office will be closed for the summer starting Friday, June 25 due to planned construction by the church. We encourage our tutors and students to use the Westerly Public Library in the meantime. *Tutors, don't forget to submit your hours periodically.*

**Important  
Information**

During the summer, Mary Carol Kendzia, Executive Director, can be reached by LVWC's office number 401-596-9411 or by her email [lvwcexedir@gmail.com](mailto:lvwcexedir@gmail.com).

The LVWC plans to open its office Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

See you then!

# Free Conversation Classes Continuing this Summer!

*Keep those conversation skills sharp*

Visit our website for more information.

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/students](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/students)



Cafecito Conversation with Teacher Katy

Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00am, Westerly in person.

Wednesdays at 10:00-10:50am on Zoom

*\*Registration required. See our website.*



Graduate Village/URI Online Conversation Class

Monday Evenings 5:30-7:00pm Zoom

Meeting ID: 897 6923 9961

Passcode: 817631



Mystic-Noank Conversation Class

Fridays 12:00-1:00pm, Mystic-Noank Library

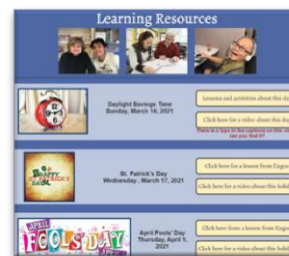
In person, outside the library

[www.mysticnoanklibrary.org](http://www.mysticnoanklibrary.org)

Don't forget to visit our website's Learning Resources page to keep learning over the summer and our Student page for the latest on LVWC classes!

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/learning-resources](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/learning-resources)

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/student](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/student)



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Executive Director  
Mary Carol Kendzia