

# ENL DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



Lorraine LaForce works with ELLs at Paul Rd. School

- *review vocabulary by simplifying language or using visuals*
- *reread material presented in the classroom to reinforce vocabulary, discuss pictures, and check comprehension*
- *encourage oral communication with short, 1:1 conversations with each ELL*
- *assist in development of peer relationships*
- *encourage and assist communication with the teacher. (Do not anticipate student's needs; help student communicate them).*
- *model language and have student repeat.*

## ENL in Gates Chili

*In Gates Chili, we are lucky to have Teacher Aides dedicated to working in the ENL program at each of our buildings. ENL aides are not required by New York State, so the work that they do with students is in addition to their mandated minutes. ENL Aides can support ELLs in the classroom as well as in the ENL room in a variety of ways:*

- *short 1:1 sessions to reinforce skills*
- *re-reading content area material*
- *make sure student understands homework*
- *assist during independent work periods*
- *reinforce directions*
- *assist with specific tasks (Ex. learning to use a microscope or access an online tool)*

## Teaching Tip

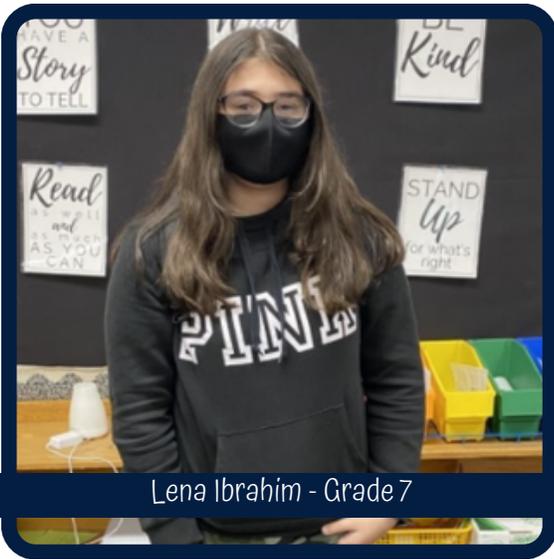
*Allowing students time to engage in academic conversations increases not only student engagement, but also students' comprehension of the topic. In a time of remote learning, it is especially important that teachers allow students the opportunity to process their learning through talk. Nancy Motley, a reading specialist and educational consultant, explains, "Social interaction and discourse are the primary means of learning." Her book, *Talk Read Talk Write*, provides a model that allows for increased communication, leading to improved reading comprehension and writing skills. [CLICK HERE](#) for a brief overview of the talk read talk write classroom routine.*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

*Joy Swierk has been teaching as a classroom teacher at Neil Armstrong School for 25 years. Over the past 25 years at Neil Armstrong School, Joy has taught half day kindergarten, full day kindergarten, 3rd grade, and is currently teaching 1st grade. Since her very first year at Armstrong, Joy has had English Language Learners in her classes. When asked why she enjoys having ELLs in her class, Joy answered, "The children and their families appreciate the education we are providing them, the children will work so hard for you in every capacity to do their very best." She also shared that seeing the growth ELLs make and following them over the years is one of her greatest joys as a teacher. "Mrs. Swierk was always nice to us and helped us if we didn't understand something. I had a lot of fun in her class," Austin Maharjan shared when asked what he remembers about being in Joy's 1st grade class three years ago. Joy credits Total Physical Response and visual aids as some of her most successful strategies when it comes to working with ELLs and supporting them in their learning. When offering advice to those who hope to work with ELLs in the future, Joy's most important takeaway to share is, "Build trusting relationships, they will always work harder for you when they know that you care." Joy is still in contact with many of the ELLs she has worked with over the years because of those trusting relationships she established with each of them!*



Joy Swierk with Vy Phan at Neil Armstrong School



Lena Ibrahim - Grade 7

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*Lena Ibrahim is a 7th grader at Gates-Chili Middle School. She was born in America and has attended school in the district since Pre-K. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Jordan. Lena says her parents moved from Jordan to America for a better life and she was almost born there, but her parents decided to move during the pregnancy. This move has influenced her life in many ways, especially since another language, Arabic, is spoken in her home. When asked how being bilingual has impacted her education, Lena says that it isn't "as difficult as it used to be." When she began her schooling, she says, "it was really hard to speak English," but by 1st and 2nd grade it became easier. She still speaks Arabic at home with her family, just not all the time. Lena enjoys sharing her culture with classmates and was even the influential force behind a Traditions project in her English class. She created a project on her family's tradition of celebrating Ramadan.*

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