

Literacy of Northern NY Newsletter, September 2017

Lowville Cream Cheese Festival, Saturday, September 16

We currently have unique raffle baskets at the office, which we will display at our table at the Cream Cheese Festival on Sept. 16. We will draw the winning tickets at the end of the festival. More baskets are coming, but in the meantime, we have a children's toy basket, a children's book basket, a "lottery tree" (actually, it is a small table that looks like a chair), and a scrapbooking basket. Still to come are the Lowville basket and the doggy basket. Board Member Sally Brennan is busy pounding the pavement in Lewis County to collect items for the Lowville basket, which will contain hundreds of dollars worth of coupons and items donated by local businesses.



You can buy raffle tickets in advance at the office in Watertown. Thank you to those of you who already have bought tickets.

We could use a few more volunteers to help at the Cream Cheese festival table. Even an hour of your time would be appreciated. Just e-mail Deborah or call the office if you can volunteer.

New Links for Tutors

New web links for tutors have been posted on the LNNY website. LNNY staff members attend professional development workshops throughout the year and the presenters come from Albany, New York City, and other areas. The handouts include lists of resources and web links. We would like to share these new links with our tutors.

<http://www.literacynny.org/resources/digital-learning-links-web-links-for-tutors-learners/>

Jefferson In-house Tutor Training for Reading & ESL tutors starts September 14.

Please pass on the information to anyone you think would be interested. We always need more tutors!

An Imaginative ESL Tutor Tip – Using Chopsticks to Teach Pronunciation

At a recent pronunciation workshop in Liverpool, the presenter, Eileen Lee, demonstrated how to use chopsticks to help students who experience difficulty pronouncing the /r/ sound when it occurs in the middle of English words.

Method

You need two chopsticks and a list of words containing the letter /r/ in the middle of the word such as borrow.



Place a chopstick between the upper and lower teeth on each side of the mouth. The wide end goes in the mouth and extends to the end of the back teeth. Clamp your teeth shut.

Yes, you will look and feel silly, but you are modeling for your student. Then start reading aloud the words on the list. Ideally, you will then have your students follow your example.

You will notice that your student can pronounce the middle-position /r/ sound with clarity or at least much better. The activity helps your student focus on the position of the tongue in the mouth. Remember that English has three different sounds for /r/ depending on the position in the word (beginning, middle, and end).

Special Recipe Project for Students & Tutors

Our board president's idea to produce and publish a collection of student (and tutor) recipes is now a project in progress. Please see if your student wants to participate. Have him or her write the name of the recipe, ingredients, and directions, then write a short blurb about why the recipe is special, and include a photo of the completed dish. **Simple recipes** work well for this type of project. We also welcome recipes from tutors.

You can work the recipe project into a great lesson plan or even extend it for two or three lessons.

When you have everything done, you can e-mail or snail mail it to Deborah. We have release forms for your student to sign so we can include his or her recipe in the book.