

AUTUMN NEWS

Updates | Inspiration | Celebration

Welcome Back

This fall, we welcome 34 students, 6 tutor trainees, and 8 returning tutors to the school year session! This year, we are serving students ranging from grades 2-10. Good luck!

Say "Hello" to Peg

A warm welcome to Peg Emerson who is joining the Children's Dyslexia Center as our new Office Manager. Peg is a retired teacher, and has worked with juveniles with literacy issues in detention centers. We are thrilled to have her on board! And speaking of "board," Jane Hunt has moved from Office Manager to Board member. Welcome!

Get Involved

The Dash for Dyslexia is set for April 7, 2019. Would you like to help? We're looking for parent volunteers to help with logistics, securing donations from local businesses, promotion, etc. If you've ever hosted a Harry Potter themed party, your expertise is especially sought! This is designed to be a big, profitable, family friendly event. For more information, please contact Emily Read at emily@dyslexiacenterportland.org



Freeport Teacher Training Pilot Program

Traditionally, educators have come to the Children's Dyslexia Center - Portland for training in the Orton-Gillingham approach to working with dyslexic students. This year, in a first-of-its-kind partnership, Dyslexia Center staff are training RSU-5 (Freeport) teachers on-site in their own district. Teachers will still be trained in the Orton-Gillingham approach, and they will still be eligible to receive course credit through USM. RSU-5 is funding this partnership, which will net 12 teachers ready to work with dyslexic students. This partnership will help countless new students in Freeport and help fund the Center's mission to provide free tutoring to dyslexic learners. Congratulations to all involved in this pilot program!



Advocacy Corner

The International Dyslexia Association annual conference is in Mashantucket, Connecticut at the Foxwoods Resort this year. Many of our staff will be attending. There are a number of workshops geared towards families, and some wonderful programming for kids as well. We're highlighting this 2-day workshop for students in 4th - 9th grades. See <https://dyslexiaida.org/conference/> for a schedule of events and more information.



Fundraising & Fellowship

Join us at Elsmere BBQ on Tuesday, October 16, at the South Portland location (448 Cottage Road) or the following Tuesday, October 23 at the Portland location (476 Stevens Ave). A portion of your bill on either (or both!) of these nights will be donated to the Center. See you there!



Meet Mae

Mae Livermore came to the Children's Dyslexia Center as a second grader. She timed out of the program in 2012, and her family hired her tutor, Mary, to finish with the curriculum at home. Mae was featured in a news magazine piece about the Center in 2012, and we were curious to see how she's been. Today, she is a senior at Deering High School, and she is, in her own words, "thriving."

Her path has had its share of twists and turns. She struggled in elementary school. She was not excited to attend tutoring in the beginning - she would build block towers in front of her bedroom door in an effort to stay home. Her time at the Center, however, quickly made a difference. By third grade, she was feeling better about school and embraced her love for stories. Fourth grade proved to be difficult, and in the next few years, she tried homeschooling, a charter school, extracurricular advanced studies, and a return to the local high school. Each of those experiences helped her to recognize how she learns best, and helped her to realize that she loves learning. She is motivated to succeed. She realizes that "there are 'holes,' (she laughed that she will graduate without knowing her multiplication facts cold), but I still deserve to be here."

Today, Mae has taken four AP classes, including two in English. She has published two volumes of poetry. She spent her summer at the prestigious Bard College writing program. She used to imagine stories and wish that "someone would write this." Now she realizes that "I could write this!" She is applying to college and writing application essays. "I never thought I'd love this stuff," she says. "It's cool to be where I am and to feel good about success."



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