



ELlements of Language Learning

News from the
NYSED

Long Island Regional
Bilingual Education
Resource Network

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Executive Director's Message **by Christa Stevenson**

Here we are, at the mid-point of the summer and I'm not quite sure how we got here this fast. It feels like just yesterday we were scrambling to schedule and train for the NYSESLAT and organizing end-of-the-school-year activities. Now, just four weeks later, we're already seeing back-to-school ads and watching the HS marching bands start practicing for Fall. This reminds us of the planning and preparation to come as we move into the next school year. This quarter's newsletter was crafted with that in mind to help jumpstart the new year.

In this issue, we bring you information from the Huntington UFSD about a mentoring program for Newcomer ELLs that yielded positive unintended results. We also share a recap of and materials from the Blossoming Bilinguals Virtual Symposium conducted by our Mid-State RBERN colleagues in Syracuse. In addition, our L.I. RBERN Parent Academy contributes information on how schools can help parents build their children's vocabularies through explicit vocabulary instruction at home.

Even though we might be thinking about and preparing for the new school year, the relaxed delight of summer is still upon us. Go enjoy the beach or the pool, take a hike, get a massage, do *something* for yourself to regroup and process. Find the thing that brings you joy and releases the pent-up energy of the last 18 months. Our kids, most especially our ELLs, need stability. They need you whole. They need you healthy. But most of all, they need you.

Coordinator's Corner

The New World Club at Huntington UFSD

by Judy Goris-Moroff

Director of Bilingual Education, ENL & World Languages



The New World Club is a mentoring program for English language learners at Huntington High School. It was piloted in 2018 and supported by the NYS Mentoring Program, an initiative created by former New York First Lady Matilda Cuomo. The purpose of the school mentor initiative is to provide each newcomer with a supportive environment that helps ease their adjustment to life in a new country and high school. The club also cultivates strong leadership and team-building skills where students learn more about themselves while making friends and becoming role models. Most importantly, they are making a positive impact in the lives of others. The mentees form friendships with strong student role models and have a person they can go to for advice. They also become more involved in our school community, gaining confidence to try new activities.

Mentors go through multiple leadership training sessions and nurture each Newcomer ELL student's personal, social and academic growth via ongoing meetings. The sessions include information about school policies, procedures and programs, education, social counseling, and relationships. The mentoring program also encourages students to stay in school, improve attendance, foster academic achievement, and overall academic focus by providing student role models. The students consistently meet before and after school, or during a free period, and offer weekly evening tutoring sessions to help students in the ENL program with their academic studies. It also provides student perspective at parent meetings in order to answer parent questions about the children's transition and experience in school. The club has expanded its role even beyond the school doors by providing support through many community service activities.

While everyone associated with The New World Club Mentoring Program believes the initiative is successful, its actual value became apparent in following years as we witnessed remarkable growth in both mentors and mentees. They had a greater sense of purpose and accomplishment, and it was amazing to see them flourish. Former Mentees are not only succeeding better in school and contributing positively to the community, but they have started to become leaders as the next set of Mentors, ensuring the sustainability of the program. The New York Mentoring Program provided training for all mentors and without their help, the program would not have been a success.

20-21 New World Club Members



Top Row:

Keylin Quintanilla
(Co-President)
Yolani Cabrera
(Co-President)
Erik Flores (Treasurer)

Bottom Row:

Michelle Lopez
(Parent Liaison)
Yanira Rivera
(Parent Liaison)
Angie Mata (VP/Finley
Middle School Liaison)

Voices From the Field

Mid-State RBERN Supports Teachers of Multilingual Learners Across New York State

by Collette Farone-Goodwin

Research Specialist, Mid-State RBERN



For the fourth year in a row, Mid-State RBERN, housed within Instructional Support Services at OCM BOCES in Syracuse, NY, hosted their early childhood institute. In the past, this institute had been a one-day, on-site event. However, in 2020, due to COVID-19, the institute transitioned to a five-day virtual symposium and was conducted in the same format this year. Dedicated to emergent multilingual learners and educators across the state, the Blossoming Bilinguals Virtual Symposium, held June 8-12, was organized and hosted by Collette Farone-Goodwin, a Research Specialist with the Mid-State RBERN.

The Symposium focused on multilingual learners from pre-kindergarten to third grade, and the audience included teachers and administrators serving that age group. It also featured 16 presenters, including experts in the areas of language acquisition, bilingual education, early learning, family engagement, social-emotional learning, and instructional technology.

Keynote presenters included: Elisa Alvarez, Associate Commissioner of NYSED OBEWL, Zoila Morell, Stephen Krashen, Diane Staehr Fenner, Emily Francis, Sonia Soltero, and OCM BOCES District Superintendent Matthew Cook. Also included among the presenters were our very own RBERN colleagues, Carmen Diaz and Marcia Soares from the Capital Region RBERN and Shawna Sweet and Nicole Bell from the Mid-West RBERN! We are grateful for all of the presenters that took time out of their busy schedules to participate this year!

Please click <http://bit.ly/BlossBil> or scan the QR code below to view session recordings and materials.



ELL Parents' Page

Explicit Vocabulary at Home

According to Hart & Risley (2003), "Eighty-six percent to 98 percent of the words recorded in each child's vocabulary consisted of words also recorded in their parents' vocabularies. (p.6)" However exposure to vocabulary varies based on family socioeconomic status (Hart & Risley, 2003) and can result in multi-million word gaps. Therefore explicit vocabulary instruction at home is crucial in language development especially at an early age. Working together, educators can provide parents with resources for explicit vocabulary instruction at home, in the home language and in English. Here are some strategies to share:

- **Read to your child.** Talk about the text features (title, author, illustrator), ask questions (what do you think will happen next? How do you think the character feels? How do you know?). Look for helpful Reading Strategy bookmarks like this FREE one from Teachers Pay Teachers!
- **Use available no-cost resources.** For parents with limited access to printed books or English, connect them with the local library. They can also use web-based read alouds, for example, those found at <https://storylineonline.net/>, or by searching YouTube for "read aloud books for children." In addition, parents can find book recommendations by interest at: <https://www.readingrockets.org/books/booksbytheme>
- **What is your favorite word?** Ask children to think about their own favorite word and to ask parents/family members as well. Share favorite words to learn more about each other and to learn new words! Share the videos embedded here with students and families. Share new words with each other each week!
- **Provide resources.** Such resources as Building Your Child's Vocabulary by Reading Rockets, Colorin Colorado, and LD OnLine, are available in English and Spanish
- **Share L.I. RBERN Parent Academy** opportunities with families and the website www.esboces.org/LIRBERNPARENTS



<https://youtu.be/lt3ufp7fYt4>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpVic6HDyk4>

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE *word?*

References

Hart, B., & Risley, T. R. (2003). The early catastrophe. Education review, 17(1).

Technical Assistance Partnership for Academics at the University of Albany.(n.d) *How to support your child's vocabulary: strategies for learning at home.*[Brochure]. Albany, NY: University of Albany.

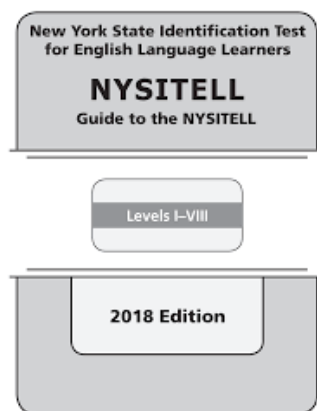
L.I. RBERN Parent Academy

The L.I. RBERN continues to develop new sessions and topics for the L.I. RBERN Parent Academy. We are excited to announce that new opportunities for parents of English Language Learners will be available throughout the year via Zoom. Sessions are presented in parents' home languages by a live representative available to interact with parents and respond to their questions. Please visit the L.I. RBERN Parent and Community Resources website for links to recorded webinars and information about upcoming events at www.esboces.org/Page/2634.

NYSED OBEWL News



COVID-19 Related Special Administration of the NYSITELL in August-September 2021



In May 2021, the New York State Education Department announced a one-time flexibility of regulation and policy in order to help schools determine English Language Proficiency Levels for current and provisionally identified ELLs on remote instruction during the 2020-2021 school year and who were not able to take the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT. The memo also extends the identification timeline for provisionally identified ELLs and new entrants to 30 days after the start of the 2021-2022 academic year.

The full memo can be found on the NYSED website at:
<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/bilingual-ed/nysitell-special-administration-memo-may-2021.pdf>

Other Recent NYSED News

Accountability: Cancellation of 2020-21 Growth Results - July 2021

https://bit.ly/3xlkXcy_

June OBEWL Newsletter

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/bilingual-ed/obewl-newsletter-2021-06.pdf>

In Case You Missed It...

L.I. RBERN Recent Staffing Changes

After 20 years of service at Eastern Suffolk BOCES in the Long Island RBERN, our friend and colleague **Gale Kaufmann** retired on June 30th. As our Principal Account Clerk, Gale was at the heart of our operations, and her efforts made all of our work possible. It is with bittersweet emotions that we send our best wishes to Gale as she will be greatly missed! Happy Retirement Gale!

We are pleased to announce a new addition to our Long Island RBERN team, **Michael Becker!** Mike has been appointed as the new Principal Account Clerk for the L.I. RBERN and comes to us from the Accounts Payable department at Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Mike brings a wealth of experience and will soon become as indispensable as Gale. Welcome aboard Mike!

Connect with Us

We want to hear from you! If you have ideas for future newsletter topics, please contact Heather Rubin at hrrubin@esboces.org.

Here are a few ways you can stay connected and learn about L.I.RBERN Events, Professional Learning Opportunities and ELL Resources:

Visit the L.I. RBERN [Website](http://www.esboces.org/lirbern) at www.esboces.org/lirbern

Join the L.I. RBERN Listserv:

To subscribe send an e-mail to subscribe-bil-esl@lists.esboces.org (nothing in the subject or body).

To unsubscribe send an email to unsubscribe-bil-esl@lists.esboces.org (nothing in the subject or body).

Follow Us On [Twitter](https://twitter.com/LIRBERN) @LIRBERN

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/c/lirbern) at www.youtube.com/c/lirbern

Register for Events on [MyLearningPlan](http://bit.ly/LIRBERNWebReg) at <http://bit.ly/LIRBERNWebReg>

Request L.I. RBERN [Consultation or Professional Development](http://www.esboces.org/Page/2857) at www.esboces.org/Page/2857

Find out about [Parent and Community Resources](https://www.esboces.org/lirbernparents) at <https://www.esboces.org/lirbernparents>



Happy Summer From the Long Island RBERN!

