



# Adult Learning Center News

Winter 2016

Volume XIII, Issue 1



**Giving adults in Strafford County a second chance, a fresh start or a new opportunity.**

## Director's Message Deanna Strand

**English Language Learners Abound!**

This fall Dover Adult Learning Center welcomed a record number of English Language Learners (ELLs) into our classrooms. A total of 275 new students reported a country of origin other than the United States. They come from 65 different countries including: Venezuela, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, Kazakhstan, Burma, Egypt, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Laos, India, Nepal, Iraq, Turkey, and Guinea.

It is not uncommon for our advanced classes to have 20 students in them!

- Be a part of our success:**
- ◆ Serve on a committee
  - ◆ Become a volunteer tutor
  - ◆ Join our Board of Directors
  - ◆ Take an enrichment class
  - ◆ Teach an enrichment class
  - ◆ Become a Friend of the Center by making a donation
  - ◆ Include us in your estate planning
  - ◆ Become a corporate or event sponsor

Beginning level classes are capped at 12 to allow for adequate individual instruction and interaction. We now offer four levels of ESOL plus grammar, pronunciation, and reading mini-courses. This influx of new Americans has created a (short) waiting list for English for Speakers of Other Languages for the first time ever.

Mid year, we realized we would have to rearrange our classrooms to accommodate the large numbers of ELLs. Joyce Malley's Level 1 class needs plenty of space for its interactive and hands-on lessons. This class is often seen (or heard) cooking, playing games, singing and creating all kinds of projects. Their activities are often featured on our bulletin board, which is located outside the main office if you are curious. Recently, they were able to fulfill a dream of Joyce's to create a lending library. Students sorted books, glued in pockets and carefully labelled old-style library cards. Many students left for vacation with a new book to read while classes aren't meeting.

One of the most exciting developments is that we recently started an ESOL class in Rochester. The schools there have seen an increase in non-English speaking families, and offered to partner with us to introduced adult ESOL to the community. A multilevel class began in February with 6 students.

Taught by Lien Harris, this class will help young families adjust to life in their new communities and build a network of support. We hope that next year, we can add other levels of instruction, maybe even have classes at different times of day.

We've also introduced group testing sessions, so we can capture all the learning that is happening! While some students take a standardized test, those not yet ready to test participate in a teacher-led multilevel learning activity. This kind of interaction really activates their language skills!

We welcome the rich diversity that ELL students bring to the center and look forward to helping them reach their learning goals!

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**In Their Own Words...****A Childhood Memory from Mongolia by Tsetsegmaa Bolortsetseg**

When I was a child I remember playing with sheep bones. There were many bones. We threw the bones. The game is called shagai. That is a national game in Mongolia. In the summer I helped my grandmother milk the cow. I cooked with my grandmother. We cooked national food like dried yogurt. The name is aarwul oram eezgii aazets. They are dried pieces of curd. They are rich in vitamins.

**Dominican Republic by Jose Santana**

In Dominican Republic, the people are friendly. There are beautiful beaches and green mountains. We have a lot of famous baseball players, with David Ortiz, Pedro Martinez, and Juan Marichal. Martinez and Marichal are members of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Also, we have famous artists with Juan Luis Guerra and Michael Camilo. The first is a popular artist and the second is a classic artist.

*In Our Own Words...* is a collection of original writings. In poetry, personal reflection and artwork, they reveal their diversity, as well as their commonality as learners.

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**Donations Received  
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## Center Stars - Amanda



Amanda's daughter, Kaitlyn, was 6 months old when Amanda began her long journey to get her high school equivalency.

At the time, DALC was located in a former church on Atkinson St. Amanda was 10 points short of getting her GED when time ran out on the old GED, and NH adopted the new HiSET. So, Amanda started over preparing to pass the five needed tests to achieve her high school equivalency.

She attends Pam Shore and Kim Hanson's morning ABE classes, Monday through Thursday. Each morning she also brings her younger sister, Kerrisa. Amanda says she has not missed a single class of Kim's, and only one of Pam's. She loves both classes. Amanda reports that they have a lot of group work, a lot of hands-on work, and projects -- besides being

entertained. She has not passed any of the five tests yet, and expects that math will be one of the last subjects to test - because it is the toughest, she says.

Amanda is not sure what she wants to do once she obtains her HiSET. She is thinking about massage therapy, also office work.

She does have an inspiration - finishing for her sister. Kerrisa and Amanda have not seen their sister for the past six years. Her sister's husband is in the military. But, the couple is due back in March. Phone calls are too expensive, so they have been communicating electronically.

It is obvious that Amanda is looking forward to seeing her long-absent sister -- and that Amanda will be getting her HiSET to celebrate.

## Staff focus... Meet Sandy and Courtney

**Sandy Straus and Courtney Boisselle** may be at opposite ends of a typical career path, but they both arrived at the same time and both have their "dream job" here at DALC.

Courtney is an evening academic skills teacher. She was a 5th grade teacher and teacher's aide and has a wealth of



knowledge surrounding newer teaching methods, such as goal setting, curriculum planning and multi-level classrooms.



Sandy teaches evening beginning ESOL. She retired after 28 years as an ESOL teacher and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge.

They both offer very different perspectives and are an excellent addition to our staff. They are excited to be here and we are happy to welcome them.



Dover

## ADULT LEARNING CENTER

**Strafford County**

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603-742-1030

### What's happening at DALC?

Keep in touch between our print newsletters by signing up for our emails at

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

You can also check out our Facebook page:  
[facebook.com/DALCNH](https://facebook.com/DALCNH)



## Register now for Reds Run for a Better Community



**Reds Race 2016**  
**Sunday, April 10**

Registration is now open!

Register online at

[www.reds-race.com](http://www.reds-race.com)



*Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.*