



THE OG UPDATE

DECEMBER 2021

SECRET SNOWFLAKE

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! We are so thankful for all of you and all of your hard work every day. It was wonderful to see our students and tutors come together to support our food drive. As we continue in a season of giving and gratitude, our December activity will be a "Secret Snowflake". Each student will be assigned another student to write to throughout the month, but instead of signing their name, they will keep their identity a secret and see if their new friend can guess who they are. By mid-month, students will work on a snowflake craft and a card that they will give to their Secret Snowflake. (All materials will be provided by Literacy Nassau. You do not need to bring anything in for this activity). At the end of the month, students will exchange their homemade gifts and reveal who they are. We hope this activity will help to build relationships amongst our students and tutors and give them some extra fun during their OG tutoring sessions during the winter holiday season.

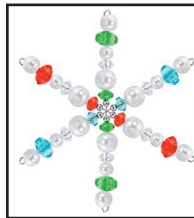


The schedule for the Secret Snowflake Activity is as follows:



Weeks of 12/1 & 12/6- find out who your Secret Snowflake is. Remember to keep it a secret. They will try to guess who you are. At each session, you can leave a secret note for your Secret Snowflake. (Envelopes will be set up along the windows in the tutoring center). You can give them a hint about who you are. (For example, I am ___ years old. I like to read about _____. etc). Someone will leave you a note too. Read your note with your tutor and try to guess who is writing to you.

Week of 12/13- Create a Snowflake Craft as a gift for your Secret Snowflake. (We will provide all the supplies. We will also provide art materials for you to make a card).



Week of 12/20- Leave your gift and card for your Secret Snowflake. Make sure you write who it is for and who you are- the secret is out this week- everyone will find out who their Secret Snowflake is. (Remember that we are closed from 12/24 through 1/2 so make sure you leave your gift before then).



December 16: Virtual Office Hours with Kate for OG Parents at 7:00pm; email for link
December 24 - January 2: The office will be closed. We will open on January 3.

Our Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who participated in our food drive. The food pantry was so happy to receive all of your donated items. Our turkey is looking very festive as a feather is added on after each donation. Students who added 10 feathers to the turkey received a Pop It as a prize. Thank you for your generosity to those in need in our community.



* Our warmest wishes this holiday season!

FROM ALL OF US AT LITERACY NASSAU

* OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 24TH THROUGH JANUARY 2ND.

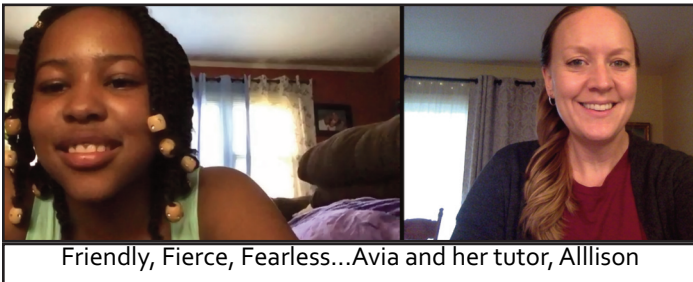




STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AVIA

(submitted by Allison Gerbert; OG Trainee)

Avia is a fourth grader who attends the Waldorf school in Garden City. She is creative and bold. She is an artist. When I first met Avia outside at Literacy Nassau, she had a bright smile, and on her hand, drawn in pen, was a beautiful design. Avia told me it was a design for an intricate, stylized rug. Along with art, she enjoys cooking and baking, too. She is friendly and kind and shared stories about her family. She has many aunts and uncles that live in different places around the world whom she enthusiastically talked about. Avia's interests extend beyond art and food. She also enjoys roller-skating, soccer, basketball, and swimming. Avia shared her love of travel and the fact she has family in Jamaica and England. However, her favorite place is the beach. She would love to visit Europe and Asia one day. In the future, Avia would like to own a business. She even mentioned the idea of being a tattoo artist. I have no doubt that wherever Avia's path leads, her big dreams will one day become her reality and she will do it with style, grace, and kindness.



Friendly, Fierce, Fearless...Avia and her tutor, Allison

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: GIULIANA

(submitted by Izabella Katz; OG Trainee)

Giuliana is five years old and is now in first grade! Giuliana loves telling stories and singing (especially songs from Frozen). I meet with her three times a week, and during our lessons, Giuliana gets to earn stickers. The more stickers Giuliana receives on her sticker chart, the more prizes she can get!

These are some questions I asked Giuliana during our OG tutoring sessions.

Tell me about something that makes you happy.

I love playing with my friends at school during recess. I also love presents on my birthday.

Tell me about something that is hard for you.

Math is hard $1+2=3$ $5+2=?$

What is your least favorite subject?

My least favorite subject is math because it's boring.

What is your favorite subject?

My favorite is reading!

Is there anything you want to learn more about?

I want to learn more about the Alphabet King, writing, and math.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *You Are My Merry Little Christmas*. I want to get the other books that are like this one.

I asked Avia some interview questions. Here are her responses:

Ms. Allison: What are your goals this year?

Avia: To make new friends. To help teach a history lesson in school with my teacher, Ms. Hart and my friend, Tristan.

Ms. Allison: What are some things you enjoy doing?

Avia: Sports, swimming, skating, dancing, art, reading and writing, history, math, and making friends.

Ms. Allison: How would you describe yourself?

Avia: Energetic, talented, beautiful, smart, sporty, "math-y", artistic. I like to make peace. I am a peacemaker.

Ms. Allison: Do you think that your reading has improved since you've been coming to Literacy Nassau?

Avia: Yes, because we read more books in school that have bigger words and the tricks that I learn help me do it.

Ms. Allison: Tell me something about your OG tutor.

Avia: Allison teaches me different things each session. She's very good at teaching. She got me the greatest gift for my birthday, a mini piñata. She teaches me tricks. She teaches me the Floss words, Rabbit words, c, k, ck words, and some of the blends, and she is pretty.

(Did I mention that Avia is sweet, too?)

Ms. Allison: What do you like most about reading?

Avia: There's always a new thing in each book. And each book, chapter, or page teaches you wisdom, something new about an animal, or just things, and you enjoy the adventure. Reading takes you in a mystery of imagination!

Ms. Allison: What would you like to be when you are an adult?

Avia: A businesswoman. I want to have opportunities to have kids learn stuff when their parents are shopping. When parents are shopping and there's a place for kids. If I have enough money and I want to share it with charity, I will.

What is your favorite movie?

My favorite movie is Frozen, and my favorite character is Elsa.

Who is your favorite person to spend time with?

My favorite person to spend time with is my whole family and my one cat. My new favorite person to hang out with is my teacher Mrs. Carrie.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A speech therapist just like my mom or a princess because I love wearing princess dresses. I have a lot of them.

Is there anything else you want to share?

I like to do gym, music, and library at school. I love playing on the playground after school too.

What is your favorite thing to do during our sessions?

I like when we play games. The alphabet game is fun! (Alphabet game is when we look at the whole alphabet and take away a few letters and have to guess what letters are missing and the sounds they make).

Giuliana dressed as one of her favorite princesses during our OG tutoring session.

