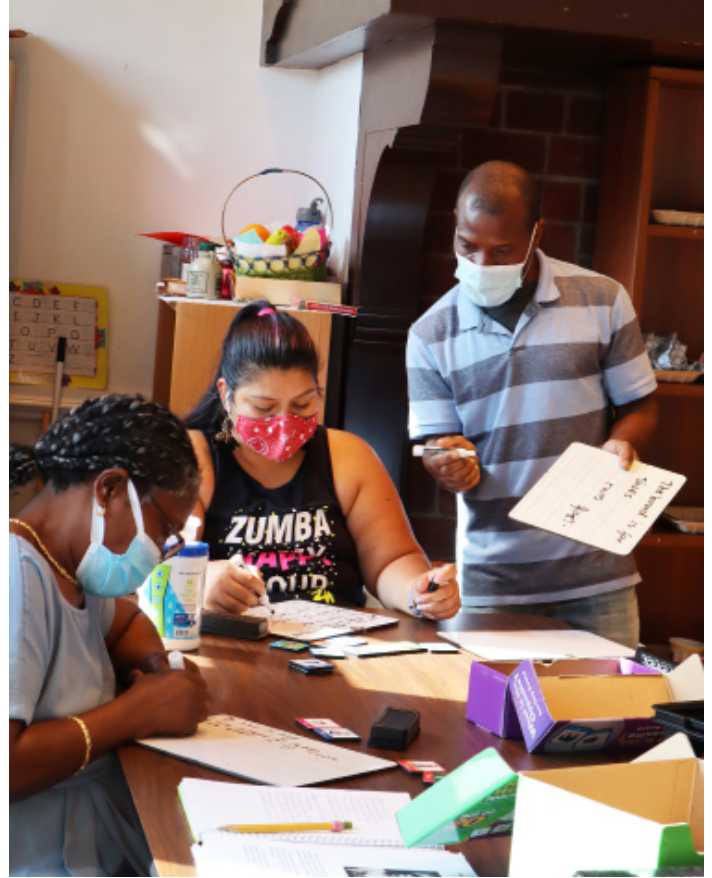


Back to School!

The classrooms at 442 Main Street are being used by students again after being empty for 18 months. Even while the classrooms and much of our communities were closed, newcomers continued to learn English online with The Immigrant Learning Center. Students from all over signed up to improve their English, which expanded their access to vital health information, improved their ability to help their children's education, enabled them to work essential jobs as well as obtain new jobs and participate in job training, and even empowered them to become citizens of the United States.

Our students, teachers and supporters like you were undeterred by the challenges of the past two years and found opportunities for growth wherever we could. We may never be the same again. Perhaps we'll be even better. Whether learning online, in-person or both, our students need to understand and utilize technology now more than ever. Being forced to teach exclusively online, we have learned a lot about how to help people with very little English proficiency increase their digital literacy and learn how to use technology to their advantage. That knowledge will continue to benefit The ILC students and their children, employers and more.

(Story continued on page 5)



The ILC Teacher Jeantilus Gedeus giving individualized instruction to in-person students.



Oh, I forgot how much I like this!

That's what The ILC teacher Rachel Soule said to herself after the first few days back in the classroom. She admits she was a bit hesitant to return to the classroom, but it didn't take long for her to remember why she loves seeing her students in person. Being in the classroom and feeling the students' enthusiasm for learning is energizing. There are no connectivity or technology issues getting in the way, and the feedback is immediate. It's so much easier to tell if students are "getting it."

Connect with us!



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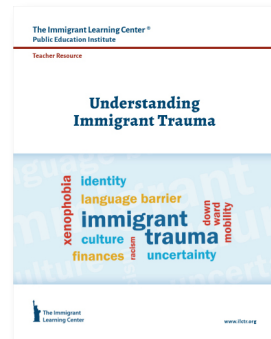
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Immigrants and Immigration Belong in the Classroom

One in four children in the United States has a foreign-born parent, and some of them are immigrants themselves. Meanwhile, studies show that most Americans are misinformed about immigrants and the history of immigration in this country. Given this dynamic, how can we help the next generation become well-informed citizens?

The ILC has launched an initiative to expand the useful, accurate educational resources that The ILC's Public Education Institute provides for both teachers of immigrants and teachers of immigration. Through a partnership with Share My Lesson, a website made by the American Federation of Teachers to share teacher resources, The ILC Public Education Institute is creating and sharing free curricula, lesson plans, teaching guides and more on topics like the history of Chinese immigration to the United States and immigration's impact on the American Revolution. Through the Share My Lesson website, our existing educational tools and new projects are reaching new audiences across the country. Educators have accessed our Teaching Immigration collection of resources more than 600 times.

This partnership with Share My Lesson is strengthening The ILC's work to educate Americans on the economic and social contributions of immigrants, and it wouldn't be possible without your support. With the generous donations that have sustained The ILC throughout the pandemic, The ILC's Public Education Institute is now enabling foreign-born students to see their stories reflected in their lessons and U.S.-born students to learn about immigration from inclusive, accurate sources.



Two of the new educational resources from The ILC's Public Education Institute available via Share My Lesson

The ILC Barry M. Portnoy Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Return!



Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Join us at the Royal Sonesta Boston.

Not Turning Anyone Away: Online Citizenship Classes Help New Americans Nationwide

Not everyone is back in the classroom. The ILC's Citizenship Classes are still being conducted online. The ILC Citizenship teacher Kathleen Klose explained, "I miss my colleagues and the excitement of being back together, but this was the right thing to do. I just didn't want to turn anyone away."

Who would be turned away from in-person classes? Some students and volunteers said they weren't ready to return in person for fear of COVID-19. Our new long-distance students would also be left out. Whether it's Abington, MA, or Austin, TX, online classes have expanded who we can reach. There are even Citizenship students and a volunteer from California.

Speaking of volunteers, it's our dedicated group of volunteers and the ability to use virtual "breakout rooms" on Zoom that make it possible to help a wide range of students, some of whom wouldn't get the help they need in a typical citizenship class. One student learned the material so well while waiting more than a year for her citizenship interview that she started volunteering to help her peers. Another volunteer has amassed so much knowledge from years of interviewing successful candidates that he has become an

expert mock interviewer. Even over Zoom, they practice for the citizenship interview with masks on to make it as realistic as possible.

Although the technology and the volunteers are immensely helpful, all of this customization takes work. Kathleen spends up to four hours preparing for each two-and-a-half-hour class. The results speak for themselves. Kathleen says she can't remember the last time one of her students failed to pass their interview. The smiling face of each new American makes it all worthwhile.



Meet Ayhan, one of the many students helped by The ILC's online Citizenship Classes.

He became a U.S. citizen on July 27, 2021, and hopes his new status will help him regain some of the professional ground he lost when his family moved here from Turkey. Ayhan says any sacrifice they've made is paying off in a better future for their daughter, who is thriving at Worcester Polytechnical Institute.

**Remember The Immigrant Learning Center
on the World's Biggest Day of Generosity,
November 30, 2021**

**a Voice
GIVING TUESDAY**

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Thank you, donors!

It is with our deepest thanks that we recognize the following donors who made financial and in-kind contributions to The ILC between April 30, 2021 and October 1, 2021.

Special thanks to our monthly donors, Facebook fundraisers and those who use giving and matching programs through their employers. Please check with your company's HR department for details.

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Back to School! (continued from page 1)

The most obvious changes are due to COVID-19 restrictions. All students and staff entering the building are required to be vaccinated and wear masks. The classes are smaller, and precautions like staggered break times are in place to ensure students from different classes don't physically interact.

Responsiveness and adaptability have always been hallmarks of The Immigrant Learning Center. We strive to help the most people while trying to ensure each student's unique needs are met. Right now, that means we are holding English classes in a variety of ways. Some are in-person five days a week. To accommodate students who live farther away, have childcare issues, concerns about COVID or other obstacles to in-person learning, some classes are still online only. We also offer hybrid classes that are divided into two groups that alternate days in-person and online. That way, twice as many students can attend in-person classes.

Some teachers have even used this hybrid model as an opportunity to create pen-pal relationships between the students in each half of their hybrid class.



The ILC Teacher Christiana Gianetta with pen-pal mailboxes for her students in alternate-day classes.

A Unique Book Club Helps The ILC Students in Good Times and Bad

Can you remember the last time you used a library? Imagine if none of the materials were printed in your native language and none of the staff spoke your language. Now imagine the students who come to The Immigrant Learning Center for English classes having a dedicated library here with staff ready to help them find books matching their English ability, whether for themselves or to read with their children. That's exactly what Family Literacy Coordinator Trish Micheli created back in 2018.

The library was a big hit. Before the pandemic started, students would stop by any time they liked to check out a book. Trish started a drop-in book club that met twice a day after morning and afternoon classes. Reading aloud in small groups helped with reading comprehension, vocabulary, pronunciation and confidence speaking in front of others. All of that came to a screeching halt in March 2020 when students emptied out of The ILC classrooms in Malden. By April, Trish and a small group of volunteers had started offering one-on-one reading coaching with students online. Even with all the challenges of living through a pandemic and balancing work, childcare and English classes, as many as 20 students per term participated in these opportunities.



Students enjoying The ILC's book club led by Family Literacy Coordinator Trish Micheli

Starting with the fall session of 2021, the library is open again, but not quite like before. Because of COVID-19 precautions, only one class at a time is allowed in the library. In-person book clubs have resumed, but attendance is more strictly controlled, and the online meetings are still offered. As restrictions and needs change, we will continue to adapt. The next time you pick up something to read, think about what it would mean to you to have this kind of help and know that your support makes it possible.



What's Inside

Back to School!	Pg 1
Immigration in the Classroom • Awards	Pg 2
Citizenship Story • #GivingTuesday • Trustees	Pg 3
Thank You, Donors!	Pg 4
Back to School! (continued) • The ILC Book Club	Pg 5
Former Student, Lifelong Supporter	Pg 6

Giving Immigrants a Voice Since 1992

Former Student, Lifelong Supporter

Ines has something in common with you. She's a supporter of The Immigrant Learning Center.

Ines was so impressed with the help she received at The ILC that she did the one thing The ILC never asks from students. She made a financial contribution. Ines chose to make a generous online donation because she knows The ILC supporters are “helping make students’ dreams possible.” For almost 30 years, supporters like you have enabled The Immigrant Learning Center to offer English and citizenship classes to immigrant and refugee adults, completely free of charge. “It is really a privilege to have studied at The ILC. You do a fantastic job there and I am so grateful for this opportunity,” says Ines, who immigrated to the U.S. from Brazil.

Ines’ dream is to help children. She worked as a psychologist and elementary school teacher before coming to the United States. She dreams of getting a master’s degree in educational psychology and continuing her work in this country.

Enrolling in English class at The ILC was Ines’ first step in that journey. She quickly advanced to the Next Steps class,



It is really a privilege to have studied at The ILC. You do a fantastic job there and I am so grateful for this opportunity.

which focuses on preparing students for work, additional education/training or other goals as they improve their English. Ines particularly benefited from job search and public health lessons. She also improved her pronunciation and vocabulary in The ILC book club. (See story on page 5 for more about the book club.)

Now that Ines is a former student and donor to The ILC, she’s on track to pursue her master’s degree and help the next newcomer pursue their dreams.