



In Our Words Newsletter

Student Writing

Shaved Ice! by Karol Loyola, English Language Learner

Five years ago my mom was very unhealthy, but my mom was always working. This time no work for her health. Sometimes she cried. Mom told all her children in a meeting, I need to work. My life is terrible. My brother said, Calm please. It's possible next year you are better health and you can work then, but my mom only cried.

Then one day my mom tell me, Karol I make a shaved ice. Help me please. I respond my mom, I give money to you. She says, No, No, I need to work. My mom then made much shaved ice. Then I speak with my siblings, Please I need help me. I will go to the beach and sell shaved ice of my mom. Come with me.

My sister laughed and say, Are you crazy? You are a lawyer, I am a professional too. No, No. Then I call my brothers. Come with me to the beach. I need to sell shaved ice. My brother and sister came with me. We tell the people at the beach, Buy, Buy shaved ice! My brother put on sunglasses and a hat so you cannot recognize him. Then we say, Shaved Ice, Shaved Ice! This day sold shaved ice. Returned my home with the money. Told my mom, this is for your work. Mom is happy and says, I will make more shaved ice for next week, and we all shouted, Shaved ice!!!

Now when I remember with my siblings, we laugh for this story. We did many things together because we are almost the same age.

Ramadan, by Fadumo Adan, English Language Learner

Later this month many of our learners will observe Ramadan (March 22 - April 21). Learn more about this holiday from Fadumo Adan, an English Language Learner!

My name is Fadumo. I am from Somalia. I have a husband and 5 kids. Their names are Salman, Salma, Sultan, Sara, and Sumeya. I also have 2 cats. Their names are Salam and Samira.

I have been in Nashville for 19 years. I want to learn English. When I do, I want to help people learn English. If I had a job I would be a Social and Community Service Manager. Those are people who help the poor.

What is Ramadan:

Ramadan is a very important month in Islam. The purpose of Ramadan is to experience the feeling of hunger the poor feel everyday. We fast for 14 hours.

Fasting:

Adults usually fast whole day. Some children fast for half a day, or eat a snack every once in a while.

Food:

During Ramadan we eat lots of different types of food. The food we eat the most is probably samboosa. We also eat lots of fruit and types of bread. We also eat different types of mixtures of vegetables and rice and chicken, fish and meat.

Community Partner



MNPD Family Intervention Program

Whenever a crime occurs, many people are affected - the victim, family members, friends, and the entire community. The mission of the Family Intervention Program of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department is to provide mental health services and criminal justice system advocacy whenever individuals, families, and/or the community are affected by violent crime. All services are free, confidential, and provided in an environment which supports cultural diversity: with respect to race, religion, creed, and sexual orientation.

The FIP has employees specifically dedicated to supporting refugees and immigrants affected by crime. We recently learned more from Beth Thomas, Refugee & Immigrant Advocate, about the services the FIP provides in more than 25 languages.

Contact Beth if you need assistance: 615-489-9371

Culturally responsive advocacy and outreach for Nashville's diverse populations are available. Some translated materials are available here. Telephonic interpretation should be available in your language.

All services are confidential and free of charge. The FIP is available to victims, their families, and other individuals in crisis. Anyone victimized by a crime who wants counseling is encouraged to contact them for assistance. A victim's decision about prosecution does not affect eligibility. A victim's immigration status does not affect eligibility.

[Learn More](#)

NALC Announcements

Find news from staff and other updates here!

Celebrations

Congratulations to English Language Learner, Nafisa Tahiri who passed her citizenship interview in February!



Gael García Bernal

The NALC office was recently used in filming for an upcoming Amazon movie starring Gael García Bernal. Gael left us a special note!

Translation: Thank you for being so cool and letting us use your school. A huge hug and much love!



Office Hours

We are excited to announce that we are open **by appointment only on Wednesdays** between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Cohn School (4805 Park Avenue) in Suite 113B. Students and tutors can reach out to us at info@nashvilleliteracy.org to make an in-person appointment. You must make an appointment in advance.

Possible reasons for setting an in-person appointment could be: learning how to use Zoom, Burlington English support, checking out physical learning materials from our library, or any other support that is needed.

[Make an Appointment](#)



Submit Your Work

Do you have something to share? Please let your teacher or a NALC worker know OR submit work using the button below. You can also email your work to mharding@nashvilleliteracy.org. We are here to help!

[Learn More & Submit Work](#)

Community Conversations

Do you want to give a presentation on Zoom to our NALC community? This is a great opportunity to talk about your country, practice your public speaking, and practice your English! Please fill out this form and we will contact you for more information.

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