



NAAM Monthly Updates

Our office at 330 Lynnway might be physically closed, but NAAM is very much still open. We have been working diligently from home to ensure that our refugee and immigrant clients continue to receive the services they need and deserve. Moving forward, we will be uploading updates once a month. Here are some things we have been up to this month:

Case Management & Employment:

- Clients have been called back to either full or part time work at their pre-COVID jobs.
- We hope there will be more jobs soon
- The deadline for filing 2019 income taxes was extended due to COVID to Wednesday, July 15th, 2020.
- LEO VITA in Lynn helped clients with the online filing of state and federal tax returns.
- We are still helping clients with job applications and unemployment claims
- We continue helping our clients to apply for Green Card, Travel Documents, and Family Reunification applications to USCIS
- Please reach out to Will, Lynne, Natasha or Venette if you need help with filing an unemployment claim or submitting a job application, need advice about filing your income tax return, would like to join one of NAC's classes, or need another type of assistance.

Citizenship Services:

- We are continuing to help people apply for citizenship by putting the application packets together, applying for fee waivers, consulting, and enrolling to citizenship class.
- Our next 10-weeks online class starts August 3rd. The schedule of the class is Monday and Thursday, from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
- All the services are free of charge!
- Books and materials are given out for free.
- If clients don't have sufficient technology to participate, we can provide a chromebook or tablet as a loan

Direct Help to Clients in Need:

- We continue to deliver food to around 200 individuals every week on Tuesday.
- We have been also delivering summer reading books and materials for youth summer program (school supplies, art supplies, and science supplies)
- Thanks to our generous contributors, United Way, Essex County Community Foundation and other private donors, we were able to provide financial support to many of our clients/students who found themselves in a desperate financial crisis due to COVID-19 situation. With this funding, we were able to assist 400+ people pay their rents, utilities, food purchases, and other needs.

Youth Program:

- Our (online) summer program began on Monday, July 13th!
- We have about 50 students participating each day. Feedback has been very positive, though one kindergartener did suggest that we make classes even longer.
- From Monday-Thursday, students meet on Zoom for classes
 - Elementary schoolers have classes in the morning. They have been working hard on their summer reading assignments, reviewing math, doing science activities, and more.
 - Middle/high schoolers have classes in the afternoon. Students do one hour of summer reading each day - middle schoolers are reading *Home of the Brave* and high schoolers are reading *With the Fire on High*. Other classes include: storytelling, science and cooking, conversation, math, art, English through movies, and girls' group.



- On Fridays, students have the choice between doing outdoor activities in a park (while wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart) or watching a movie on Zoom
 - Outdoor activities have included: soccer, decorating fabric masks, origami, and science experiments.
 - Recent movies have included *Mulan* and *Despicable Me* for elementary schoolers and *Harriet* for middle/high schoolers.
- We have 9 teenagers who are working as classroom assistants in elementary school classes this summer: Anuragh, Sofiya, Britney, Modestine, Zainab, Akha, Kelly, Shaina, and Hashim. They are doing an amazing job and we are very grateful for their help.
- Technology continues to be a barrier for many people. To bridge that gap, we have been lending families laptops and helping them apply for Comcast's Internet Essentials.
 - Many thanks to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, who helped us acquire the computers.

CRES English Classes:

- Dan's class: We continue with grammar, Simple Present, Past, and future as well as Present Continuous. Topics included making and scheduling plans. I introduced another Voice of America feature, "English at the Movies." Each 2-minute clip talks about an expression that is used in a movie and shows the scenes where it is used. Students enjoy it and some said they want to watch the movies. Some of the expressions included: "We're not in Kansas anymore" from *the Wizard of Oz* and "We'll always have Paris" from *Casablanca*.
- Gina's class: We read parts of articles about the Massachusetts Phase 2 Step 2 of reopening and about the history of Juneteenth. Some lessons that we went through revolved around car and driving vocabulary and terminology through an esl-lab listening and a VOA learning English video about people taking (and failing) their first road tests (both with humorous bents).



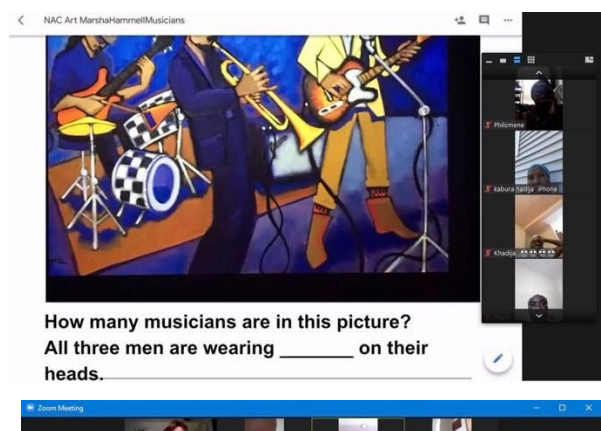
LPS English Classes:

- Dulany's class: We have continued using citizenship content (this time the USA Learns Declaration of Independence unit) as part of the class content, since all but two of the students have either recently passed their citizenship or are awaiting an appointment. We are also using NewsELA. Instead of taking a break, it was decided that the class will continue since students don't have plans to go somewhere at the same time or the same week.
- Bobby's class took a break for some time. His class started again on July 8th. He is now teaching a new section.



ELT-I:

- Art:
Art class has been focused on the following paintings:
 - *Fishing Boats on the Beach* (1888), by Vincent Van Gogh
 - *Bluebirds* by John James Audubon.
 - *Harvest Time (2012)* by Cyril Maza painting.
 Class has also been working on reading, discussion, vocabulary, object identification, relationships in space,





determining quantities, determining time of day, and describing concepts of qualities at hand.

- **Music:**

Class has been listening to a different song every week. The listening the following songs over this period of time:

- "Coming to America" by Neil Diamond in celebration of National Holiday July 4th
- "Blessed" (2003) by Brett Dennen, an American Folk Artist. This song celebrates being alive.
- "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie.

Through these songs, students were able to work on their reading and vocabulary.

- **Wellness:**

Students learned about the three elements of yoga:

- Breath
- Physical Movements
- Mental Focus.

They also looked at the elements of physical fitness:

- Strength
- Balance
- Flexibility

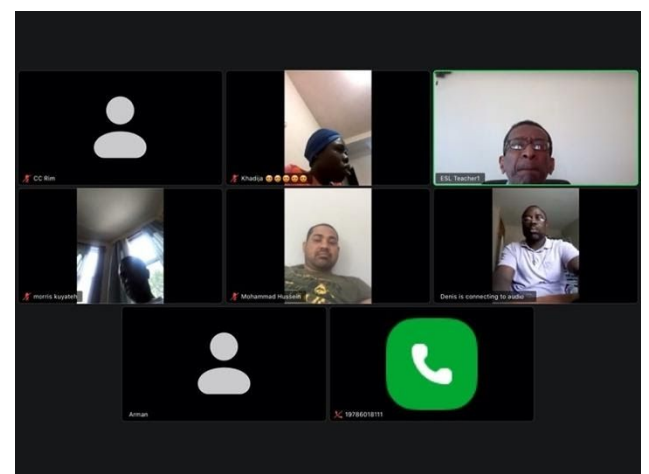
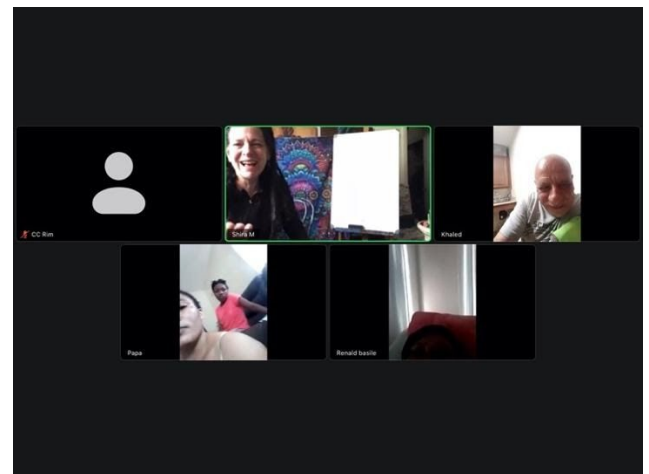
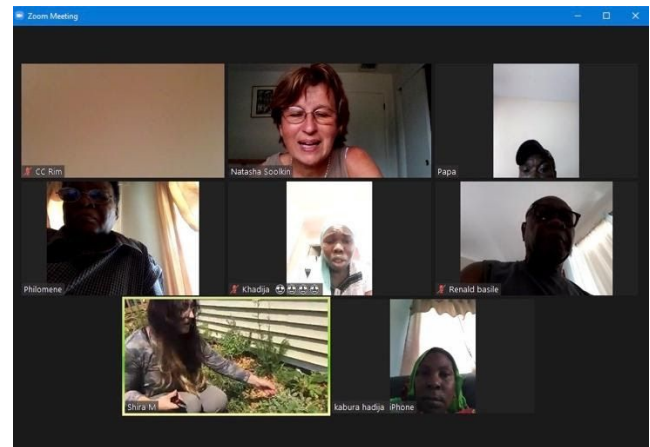
class has also been exploring the four pillars of Wellness which are:

- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Sleep/Rest
- Stress Management.

They watched a video and had a group discussion about the benefits of exercise and the different types to choose from. As well as the proper way to follow the steps. They also touched on nutrition, how consuming healthy food is beneficial for our bodies and brains.

Quote from teacher:

"Today we focused on Nutrition and the benefits of a healthy and nutritious diet. The students took turns reading the many benefits of a healthy diet, discussed an image illustrating the recommended balance of foods and looked at a comparison of foods that are healthy and should be eaten regularly and fast foods that should be consumed less frequently. Kadijah had some nice insight into this as a mom who is trying to make sure her children eat a healthy diet, even though they want to eat more fast foods. We started looking at the names of common fruits in English and discussed which ones we enjoy the most. This is part one of a two-part lesson. The second lesson focused on learning about the national holiday of July 4th. The students read some historical background information and we focused on the song, "Coming to America" by Neil Diamond, a song that tells the long and varied stories of immigration to the United States. The theme and images in the song were ideas that every student could relate to and we also experienced how powerful words, when set to music, can elevate important messages"





- Phone Technology:
 - Class has been reviewing navigating the NAAM website by sharing the instructor's screen. This helps to see what's new and the current events on the calendar as well as to connect with case managers & help offered in the area of Lynn.
 - Students have also been working on vocabulary words such as - Mouse, Keyboard, Desktop, Input, Output, CPU (central processing unit), Memory, Webcam, and Monitor.
 - The instructor has been sharing videos and pictures which serve as visual aid.
 - Students learned about various free applications such as: Google Duo, GroVelp, Facebook Messenger, and WhatsApp.
 - They also learned about the best free phone apps, to help students financially such as: WhatsApp, Signal Private Messenger, and Viber.

Contact Us:

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We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. We look forward to the day that we can once again greet you all in person at the New American Center.