

A newsletter for the volunteers and friends of Pemi-Baker Literacy

READINGS

From the Director

2021 was another challenging year for all of us. Early in the year, the number of students we saw continued to be low. However, beginning in the fall, we saw the largest group of incoming students on record... close to 20 new students in just a few weeks!

Confidence is climbing and with that, students are back, setting goals, and making their education a priority. Of course, we continue to use safety protocols to help mitigate COVID, and a return to fully normal operation doesn't seem like an impossible dream. Could there finally be a light at the end of this tunnel?

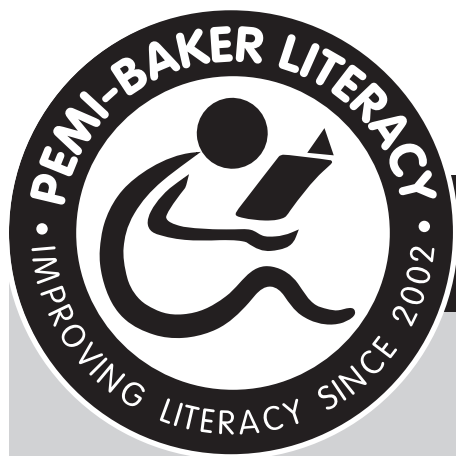
A PBL First — Mother & Son Complete HiSET! Two Generations of Graduates



Crystal and Anthony

Crystal joined our group HiSET class in early 2016. At that time, she and her young daughter were living in a shelter, struggling to make ends meet, while her two older children lived in Massachusetts. In May 2016, Crystal successfully completed the HiSET and received her high school diploma. Since then, Crystal has had steady employment, and has obtained housing of her own and a reliable car.

In 2019, her teenage son, Anthony, came to live with her so he could complete high school here in New Hampshire. When COVID hit, Anthony found it difficult to engage with remote learning and the frequent switching between virtual and in-person learning. In early 2021, when he turned 18, Crystal and Anthony reached out to PBL for help. We provided him with study and academic skills support, and he thrived. In May 2021, Anthony successfully completed his HiSET, joining Crystal as the first parent/child team to complete HiSET through Pemi-Baker Literacy. Imagine Crystal's pride when she got the news. Anthony is currently working full time while deciding what his next steps will be. We are proud of them both and are grateful to have been part of their journey.



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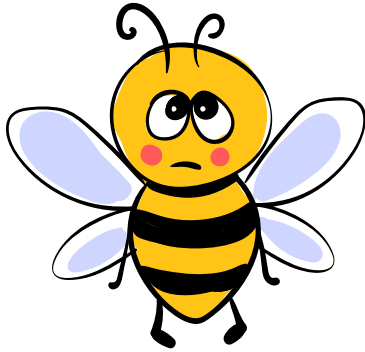
Pemi-Baker Literacy

at the Whole Village
Family Resource Center
258 Highland Street
Plymouth, NH 03264

603-536-2998

PemiBakerLiteracy.org

*Fingers crossed
for 2022?!*



20 YEARS of Success!

- Nearly 1,000 people have contacted PBL for assistance
- Over 100 students have earned their HiSET or GED
- Nearly 100 individuals have improved their English language skills
- PBL instructors have provided close to 15,000 hours of instruction!

Another Year Without a Bee

Well, another year has passed and still no Spelling Bee. We really hoped that we could pull it off this year, but the uncertainty that COVID brought has still not completely subsided. Our annual Spelling Bee is important on several levels — it is the most fun we have all year, it is the best exposure for our programs, and it is our biggest fundraiser. For these reasons we are channeling ALL the good vibes we can from the universe in hopes of a 2022 Bee!



Celebrating 20 years!!

This year we celebrate 20 years of service to our community. While our services have varied over the years, our goal has always been to respond to the current literacy needs of the community. Those needs have included family literacy workshops, reading to children at the Bridge House homeless shelter, teaching adults to read and helping them obtain their GED or HiSET, and more recently basic computer skills. Currently, our program is mostly comprised of English language learners with some HiSET students.



Congratulations to our ESL Students



Pilar, Pat, and Claudia

Our ESL class is proud to introduce three of America's newest citizens and green card holders! This summer, **Pat**, from Thailand, became a United States Citizen. **Pilar**, from Peru, and **Claudia**, from Canada, recently received their green cards. Please join us in congratulating them all!

*One new
US citizen
and two new
permanent
residents*

Where Are They Now?

Catching Up with Some of Our Former Students!

Carolina

Carolina came to PBL in 2014 while she was enrolled in a program to get her Associates degree in Early Childhood Education at Lakes Region Community College. Born in Argentina, she came to the United States about twenty years ago. She found it was faster and easier to enroll in HiSET rather than trying to transfer her school transcripts from Argentina. She worked with a PBL tutor to brush up on her math and writing skills and successfully completed her HiSET in November of 2014. The following month, she graduated with her Associates degree. In September 2017 she started working as the Associate Teacher for HeadStart right here at Whole Village in Plymouth. She adores her job and all the wonderful children she gets to work with.



*Our student
becomes a teacher*



Jenn

Jenn enrolled in our HiSET class in January of 2018. She had an infant and a toddler at home and knew the time was right to finally get her diploma. When class ended that spring, she continued her studies and passed all parts of the HiSET by the end of 2018. Jenn utilized some of our scholarship fund to offset the costs of taking the test (the test is currently \$125 for all five parts!) In March of 2021, Jenn enrolled at Southern New Hampshire University for an

Associate's degree in Business Administration. She hopes to graduate in December of 2022 and open her own cleaning business!

*On course
to receive her
Associate's degree
in Spring 2022*



Pemi-Baker Literacy

258 Highland Street
Plymouth, NH 03264

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

An Opportunity to Change a Life — VOLUNTEER!

Do you have a few hours a week and a desire to help an adult in our community? We are always looking for tutors in HiSET (GED) preparation, English as a Second Language, and basic digital literacy. Please call **603-536-2998** or email us at **PemiBakerLiteracy@gmail.com** to set up time for a short orientation.

5 Ways You Can Support Pemi-Baker Literacy

Pemi-Baker Literacy is thankful for our very supportive community! More than half of our funding comes directly from YOU! Here are some of the ways you can support our programs throughout the year.

- **Donate Online** — Click “DONATE” on our website **PemiBakerLiteracy.org**
- **Start a Facebook Fundraiser** — Find “Fundraisers” on the Facebook menu and click “Select nonprofit” to get started.

- **Shop at Smile.Amazon.com** — When you do your online shopping at Amazon.com, just start at Smile.Amazon.Com. When you choose to support Pemi-Baker Literacy .5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to us. It’s that easy!
- **Estate Planning** — Remember Pemi-Baker Literacy in your estate planning. Contact us for more information about making a bequest to PBL in your will, trust, retirement plan, or insurance policy.
- **Mail Us a Check** — Support our programs by sending your check, payable to Pemi-Baker Literacy to: 258 Highland Street, Plymouth, NH 03264.

All of us at PBL appreciate the support we receive in so many ways. Whether it’s financial support, your time, telling your friends about us, hosting tutoring space or providing materials, we are grateful to all our donors. **Thank you!**



You can see the latest PBL news by “liking” our Facebook page, **Facebook.com/pbliteracy**, or follow us on Instagram **@pbliteracy**.