

# ENL DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



Gates Chili English as a New Language Program continues to grow.



There are 262 English Language Learners (ELLs) in the Gates Chili Central School District - 27 at Florence Brasser Elementary, 34 at Walt Disney Elementary, 27 at Paul Road Elementary, 49 at Neil Armstrong Elementary, 57 at Gates Chili Middle School, and 68 at Gates Chili High School. These students have been identified through the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) and scored at English Proficiency levels ranging from entering to expanding.

Our ELLs have a range of home languages, the most common being Arabic, Spanish, Ukrainian, Nepali, and Vietnamese. Their families originate from a variety of countries and territories, including Yemen, Ukraine, Puerto Rico, Vietnam, and Nepal. The word clouds display all languages and countries/territories represented by Gates Chili ELLs. The larger words have more representation, and the smaller words have less representation. We are fortunate to serve such a diverse student population.





Family models attire from their country.

## ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Our ENL family picnic at Lion's Park on October 5 was an incredible gathering filled with warmth, diversity, and fun. Forty-eight families came together, making it a vibrant and memorable event with over 150 attendees. The highlight of the day was the diverse array of foods from different cultures, symbolizing the rich tapestry of our community. We also celebrated our unity through a captivating fashion show, where attendees showcased clothing and attire from their respective cultures.



## ELEMENTARY SUMMER PROGRAM

This year, the Elementary ENL Summer Program focused on a general question word each week. In week one, we learned about the question word "Who" – Who are the people in our community, in our school, in our family, and in our class? In week two, we learned about the question word "When" – When the seasons, days, and months are, when day and night is, and when the weather changes. In week three, we learned about the question word "What" – What we like to do, what we like to eat, and what we like to play. In week four, we learned about the question word "Where" – Where we like to go in the community, and where we like to spend time in our home and school. Our daily themes aligned closely with the Summer Program activities, giving our students the opportunity to practice language and vocabulary authentically with teachers and peers. We had many opportunities for students to engage in conversations and activities together, building up their speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills. We enjoyed every minute of the ENL Elementary Summer Program with our students!



## SECONDARY SUMMER PROGRAM

*Sixteen middle and high school students participated in the Secondary ENL Summer Program. Students from Ukraine, Dominican Republic, Turkey, Yemen, Puerto Rico and Vietnam practiced their English language skills through a thematic unit about Native Americans. We learned about the importance of totem poles in Native American culture and students designed their own totem poles to reflect their family identity. We visited the Seneca Park Zoo and saw a life-size totem pole, as well as many of the animals used to tell family stories. Students wrote a detailed description of their totem poles and practiced their listening and speaking skills by presenting them to one another. The program wrapped up with a trip to the Ganondagan State Historic Site, where students learned more about the Seneca by visiting a longhouse and learning how to play lacrosse.*



