

It's Academic

Beyond Literacy: Two Adult Learning Organizations Announce Merger

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Center for Literacy and Community Learning Center, two nonprofit adult-learning organizations, announced their merger under a new identity, [Beyond Literacy](#), on April 28. Combining resources and staff will better serve the increasing numbers of adults in the city who need help with English language proficiency and high-school equivalency credentials.

Ultimately, the goal is to help adult learners gain employment, enter job-training programs, or transition to college and other post-secondary schools. Preparation for citizenship, computer-skills training, career readiness, pre-apprenticeship programs, and family literacy are among other services offered.

"Our inclusive services take striving adults from learning to earning," says Kimmell Proctor, the new CEO of Beyond Literacy, "by equipping them with the lifelong literacy skills necessary for family-sustaining careers."

The new name, tag line, and logo were created through a process involving students, staff, board members, donors, and funders.

Headquarters and classes are located at Peirce College, 1420

Pine St., and classes are also held at Beyond Literacy's other campuses in West Philadelphia and North Philadelphia. Classes are offered free of charge.

For more information, contact [Robin Robinowitz](#), Chief Development Officer.



Courtesy of Beyond Literacy

Kimmell Proctor, CEO of Beyond Literacy

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Greene Towne Kindergartners' Center City Classroom

By Nicole Leapheart, Director of Communications, GTMS

On a cloudless, beautiful day, a small group of kindergarten students from Greene Towne Montessori sets off on a short walking trip around Center City with their teacher and additional staff. The object of this particular trip is to explore some of the sculptures found within walking distance of the school: *Deinonychus*, the sculpture of two dinosaurs, and the casting of Joseph Leidy, both found at the Academy of Natural Sciences; *The Thinker* at the Rodin Museum; and the Swann Memorial Fountain, with sculptures of Native American figures to represent the Schuylkill, Delaware, and Wissahickon bodies of water, just to name a few stops along the way.

The kindergartners have mastered safety protocols and are properly wearing their masks. Animated and curious, they are excited to be outside on a walk, and clamor around each other to either sound out or even read aloud the signs associated with various sculptures. Sometimes they mimic the sculptures and giggle at each other. This opportunity to be out and about is not taken for granted.

The kindergarten year is for children in their last year at Greene Towne, as the culmination of the complete Montessori program. Kindergarten children spend each day in the mixed-age Montessori classroom working on individual projects or in small groups and mentoring younger students. They eagerly explore the worlds of reading, writing, mathematical calculations, geography, science and art. This is the year where everything comes together, and these children display confidence in skills like leadership, cooperation, discovery, and grace.

Along with skills learned in the classroom, there are enrichment opportunities in addition to the standard Montessori curriculum. These students also enjoy field trips and cultural activities like Lunches Around the World, both typically hosted by kindergarten-parent volunteers. This year, safety protocols made these events look different, but thanks to some creative thinking by teachers and parents, arrangements for experiences like a sculpture walk, a virtual Franklin Institute trip, and a leaf scavenger hunt have happened, with more to come.

Greene Towne Montessori School serves children 18 months old through Kindergarten and is accredited by the American Montessori Society and the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools. To learn more, visit www.gtms.org.



Greene Towne kindergartners visit the Swann Memorial Fountain.