

Lake Erie Ink

A writing space for youth

Lake Erie Ink is a not for profit 501(c)3 that provides creative expression opportunities and academic support to youth in the Greater Cleveland community

Fearless Writers Gather at LEI for National Novel Writing Month

The days are getting shorter and the nights darker here in Northeast Ohio, but our lights are on and our word-counts are rising every Wednesday night at Lake Erie Ink. This month, we're proud to host a powerhouse group of 15 writers, grade 6 and beyond, who have pledged to write a novel or a story cycle in 30 days.

Adult participants pledge 50,000 words and kids, 25,000. The next step is to write furiously and constantly, through dead ends and bad ideas, misspellings and missteps. "NaNoWriMo is the writing world's version of a marathon," said Grant Faulkner, NaNoWriMo's executive director.

"Writers exit the month with more than a novel; they've experienced a transformative creative journey," transformative, perhaps, because producing a novel during NaNoWriMo – like all writing at Lake Erie Ink – isn't about formal evaluation. It's about creating for creativity's sake; for forming the life-changing habit of writing every day. The painstaking work of revision can come later, but November is about getting it all onto the page.



Personified House

I knew they would be leaving soon, but I didn't know they'd be leaving as soon as right now.

Maybe they'll come buy me, but maybe they will not. I hope they do because I want someone to sleep inside me.

I wish my tongue could reach out and feed the people to me, and maybe they might come live inside me.

I've been here so long. I wish I could stand up and be a person, but all my windows see is the grass and the sky and when the tourists come by.

By Tyler

Mark your calendar:

- **Saturday, November 17th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:**
Mixed-up History: Reimagining stories of the past
ALL AGES
- **Saturday, November 17th, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.:**
Teen Café and Open Mic 6th grade and up
- **Saturday, December 1st, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:**
Poetic Shapes: Combine words and forms to create unique 3D expressions ALL AGES
- **Thursday, December 13th, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**
Ripple FX: Digital Media Project Performance
- **Thursday, December 13th – Last Day of Fall Quarter**
Ink Spot; We will celebrate the anthology release from 4-5- All students welcome to attend this day.
- **Thursday, January 3rd, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.:**
Creative Play Day!
- **Winter Ink Spot resumes January 7th, 2013**

Ripple FX: Digital Media Performance and Celebration

Join us in Ensemble Theater (just down the hall from LEI) on Thursday, December 13th to see Ink Spot kids and teens performing the tracks they've created as a part of this year's digital media project. Guided by the dynamic DeeJay Doc and thanks to a grant from the Nord Foundation, youth at LEI have had the chance to work on iPads to find beats and write lyrics. Dubbed "Ripple FX," this year's digital media project has been especially concerned with impact and influence – the way our actions have ripples that spread out and touch people we may never meet.

Don't let Winter break cloud out your creativity—

Hike over to LEI in January for a Creative Play Day!

Join LEI for an afternoon of creative play on Thursday, January 3rd. Kids in grades 2-8 can get out of the house from 1p.m.-5p.m. and spend the day flexing their creative muscles and just burning off some of that snowed-in energy with us. Cost is \$25 per student with sibling discounts available. Reserve your spot today!

Reminder to Ink Spot Parents and Kids

The Ink Spot takes on a lofty task every week. We pledge to provide both homework help and creative expression opportunities along with a snack and a break in an hour and a half, and we take that pledge seriously. To maximize the impact of our programming, finding a balance between academic support and enrichment is key. With that said, the beginning of Ink Spot every day is dedicated to homework. During the second part of the day, students can choose to either keep working on homework or participate in a creative activity. However, not getting to work during homework time isn't a sufficient excuse to sit out of our activities. Parents, if you could remind your kids that it's important to come in and get started on homework, it would enhance our time together and improve your child's chance of completing his or her work so that it's not left for home.

Volunteer With Us!

Whether you're free during the day, after school, evenings or weekends, we've got something for you. We're looking for volunteers age 15&up to provide homework help and writing support during our programs. If you love language and have 2 free hours a week, email Lydia at staff@lakeerieink.org.

Spotlight on Maryann the Intern!

By now, many of you have met LEI intern, Maryann, but there's probably plenty you still don't know about her. A 2012 Hiram grad with a degree in English Literature and a minor in psychology, Maryann hails from Solon. She loves writing (poetry and creative non-fiction) and working with kids, and she heard about LEI through Kirsten Parkinson, one of her professors at Hiram.

When she's not at LEI, Maryann likes to ride her bike and go for walks with her dog, a shih tzu mix named Toto. She's also well-traveled. While at Hiram she spent three weeks in China exploring Beijing, Xian, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. "Ever since, I really like Chinese food," she says. Her favorite book is EM Forster's *Passage to India*, and her favorite music comes out of the 1970s, namely, Barry Manilow and Jim Croce.

You can find Maryann providing invaluable support every day at the Ink Spot, as well as during the day with LEI's in-school programs. If you see her around, get to know Maryann!