

Polyglot

Editors: Nancy Engelman and Jan Kucerik

Pinellas County Schools

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News From the Schools

Boca Ciega High School

The *Los Hidalgos* chapter of the *Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica* is pleased to announce the names of its newest members: Lauren Johnson, Michael Anderson, Thuy Luong, Jenn Bonnette, Liz Camperos, Sandra Rakovic, Min Jang, Shelby Anderson, Omar Flores, and Janqueshia Stephens. These students met the requirements of a 3.0 overall GPA, 3.5 GPA in Spanish classes, teacher recommendation, two short essays in Spanish and a clean discipline record. The candlelight induction ceremony was held February 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the CWMP auditorium. Congratulations to these students and to their sponsor, Pam Benton.

St. Petersburg HS

Kim Ferris, a junior in the IB program who is the vice president of the *Sancho Panza* chapter of the *Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica*, has received the national organization's "**Junior Travel Award**". Kim will be traveling to Mexico on a ten day, all expense paid tour provided by the national organization.

Two Schools Participated in 2008 Florida State Spanish Conferencia

Students and teachers from Boca Ciega HS and Lakewood HS spent much of this school year raising funds, practicing poems and impromptus and creating a play for presentation at the annual state conference for Spanish students. The Office of World Languages is certainly proud of their efforts and commends them for the accolades they received at the conference.

Congratulations to the Spanish Conferencia team from Lakewood HS which placed 3rd in the state in class 5A at this year's competition.

Impromptu speaking:

Daniel Garcia-Herreros, Elizabeth Cano, Lauren Walsh, Emily Bingham, Haley McHugh, Shawn Gicka, Mackenzie Deck, David Vasquez, April Lanuza, Michelle Scannell, Kimberly Brown - Sobresaliente; Barbara Breland - Superior

Poem Recitation

Barbara Breland, David Vasquez, Elizabeth Cano, Shawn Gicka-Sobresaliente; April Lanuza-Superior

Play-Superior

Sponsors- Darlene Lebo and Linda Santiago

Kudos also go to Boca Ciega's team, which

placed 7th in the state in class 5A.

Impromptu Speaking

Anthony Ward and Barry Yuille-Sobresaliente; Zach Cornett, Jessica Denmark, Rodolfo Estrada, Agnieszka Maslanka, and Sam Potts-Superior

Poem Recitation

Zach Cornett-Sobresaliente; Amber Harris and Magen Przyblski-Superior

Play-Superior

Sponsors- Pam Benton and Celia Rubí

¡Bravo, Estupendo, Fantástico, Chévere!

Chinese Students Excel at State Competition

Eight **Safety Harbor MS** students traveled with their teacher, Yee-chen Robson, to join other Chinese students from throughout the state in a demonstration of their Chinese language skills Saturday, March 28. Melissa Scharf earned "Outstanding" in both reading and writing. Other participating students were Tia Chadwich, Andrew Elsey, Ravi Kohli, Hannah Krohn, Nicole Nightingale, and Matin Norozzy. The Chinese Program at SHMS began in August with three classes of Beginning Chinese. These students will move on to Advanced next year. Planning is under way for the first high school program.

WLTA Report

Submitted by Sylvia Amaya, president

As president of the WLTA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board for a productive, profitable, exciting year. Our year as a board is coming to an end and as I reflect on this past year, I would like to share with you some of the highlights:

1. Sold for the first time WLTA personalized polo shirts.
2. Reached our goal of 100 paid members.
3. Field Day's name was changed to International Day after World Languages teachers voted.
4. Moved the winter social to October and celebrated the "Day of the Dead".
5. Succeeded in raising funds for the Carmine Zinn Senior Achievement Scholarship.

Thank you to Pam Benton, Celia Rubí, Mildred Pioli, Geri Craven and your future president Renee Belvis for all of your help, suggestions, and dedication to WLTA.

The WLTA board is now busy planning a banquet for May 16th, at the Feather Sound Country Club. Just a friendly reminder to please send your form and check (payable to WLTA) to the Administration Building, Sylvia Amaya, World Languages by May 5th. I hope to see many of you there to help me honor retirees, past WLTA Presidents, and join me in celebrating my last day of presidency. I have my dancing shoes polished.

Kudos to Our Colleagues

We are so proud of **Betty Rioux**, French and Spanish teacher at Bay Point MS. Betty was selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/French Consulate to receive a travel/study scholarship which will take her to Paris for three weeks in July. Congratulations, Betty.

Esther González-Wright, Spanish teacher at John Hopkins MS, has been granted a unique opportunity to participate in the Southern Initiative for Language Leadership (SILL) Summer Institute beginning this summer in Atlanta, Georgia June 15-20. This two-year program, initiated by the Southern Conference of Language Teaching (SCOLT), focuses on the unique challenges faced by newer teachers of promise and helps them strengthen their pedagogical and leadership skills. Participants will be surrounded by nationally known experts and resources in our field, who will maintain contact with their mentees throughout the project. Esther's selection is a huge honor that grants her a travel stipend, room and board, and all materials.

Amparo González, ESOL Family Outreach Coordinator, (center) was awarded the 2007 *Corporate Care and Partnership Award* for "Outstanding Contribution of Services Toward the Betterment of Our Communities" issued by the Pinellas County Sheriff's office. We commend Amparo for the important work that she does and are so pleased that her extraordinary efforts on behalf of the children and families of our ESOL community have been recognized.



Carissa Bracero, Tarpons Springs MS, will be accompanying the Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. middle school Young Ambassadors to Nagano, Japan this summer. Carissa has been studying Japanese in preparation for the experience. She will live with a host family and visit middle schools while in Nagano.

Daryl Schuster, social studies teacher at Bayside High School, and **Kerry Cunningham**, guidance counselor at Bay Point Elementary, were selected to represent the district as the 2008 Clearwater-Nagano Exchange Teachers. Applications for this opportunity are available each fall through the Office of World Languages.

Students Excel at International Day

Judges at this year's International Day, held March 8, at Meadowlawn MS, took time to praise the efforts of students who participated in the extemporaneous and memorized speaking. "The quality of speech and level of fluency was better than ever this year," wrote one judge following the event. "Quality" ran through the day, as a record number of schools presented very impressive skits and displayed banners that were true works of art. Congratulations to all the participating schools: Bay Point Ele, Bay Point MS, Boca Ciega HS, Campbell Park Ele, Countryside HS, Dixie Hollins HS, Dunedin HS, East Lake HS, Fitzgerald MS, John Hopkins MS, Kennedy MS, Lakewood HS, Largo HS, Meadowlawn MS, Northeast HS, Oak Grove MS, Osceola MS, Palm Harbor University HS, Pinellas Park HS, Safety Harbor MS, St. Petersburg HS, Seminole MS, Seminole HS, Southside Fundamental MS, Tarpon Springs MS, and Tarpon Springs HS.

Middle School Banner Winners: Seminole (1st Place), John Hopkins (2nd Place) and Tarpon Springs (3rd Place)

High School Banner Winners: Pinellas Park (1st Place), Countryside (2nd Place), Lakewood (3rd Place)

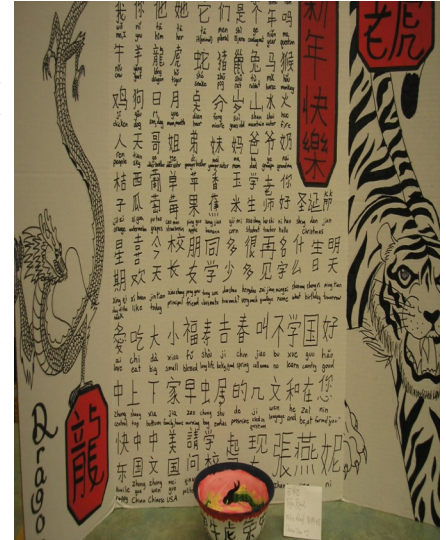
Dramatic Presentation: Tarpons Springs MS Spanish (1st Place), Seminole HS Spanish (2nd Place), Tarpon Springs MS French (3rd Place)

Safety Harbor MS Students Celebrate Chinese New Year



Teacher, Yee-chen Robson (right), guides the dance of the dragon.

Chinese students from **Safety Harbor MS** celebrated the Chinese New Year with family members and school administrators February 7, in the school's media center. Student work was beautifully displayed on colorful presentation boards full of Chinese characters, crafts and even authentic rice bowls. The program included student demonstrations of song and dance as well as oral presentations in Chinese. Families also enjoyed a variety of delicious Chinese foods. Congratulations to Yee-chen Robson and her students.



Student work filled the SHMS media center.

St. Petersburg High School Students Experience Authentic *Quinceañera* Celebration



The table is set, and families and guests await the arrival of the “quinceañeras” and their “chambelanes”.

Congratulations to **Gisela Torres**, Spanish teacher at St. Petersburg High School, and members of her freshman pre-IB class, who together planned and took part in an actual “quinceañera” celebration for the girls in the class April 16. The boys served as “chambelanes”, escorting their classmates through the various phases of the traditional “coming of age” celebration. It was a beautiful event that converted the school’s senior courtyard into a festive setting in which classroom study merged with real-life experience.



Shoes rest on pillows in anticipation of the “Intercambio de Zapatillas”, performed by assistant principal, Mr. Barry Brown.

“These students are personally experiencing the culture of the language they are studying rather than simply reading about it. My daughter will never forget this.”

Parent of student honoree



Las quinceañeras y los chambelanes

Program of Events

Welcome
Presentation of “Las Quinceañeras”
Musical Performance
Changing of the Shoes
Waltz
Candle Ceremony
Mothers’ Tributes
Reception



The waltz