

Polyglot

Editors: Nancy Engelman and Jan Kucerik

Pinellas County Schools

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*Teachers of world languages
use best practices and state standards to facilitate*

Beginning Spanish for Adults

Thirty-five adults representing many schools and offices from throughout the district participated in a six-week Beginning Spanish course held at Perkins Elementary School. Teachers, Sylvia Amaya, Lillian Lewis, Sandra Rosado and Maria Wyatt, planned and presented the series of workshops to enable interested administrators, teachers and district staff to acquire basic communicative phrases in order to help them communicate with the Spanish-speaking children and their families served regularly at their sites. Some of the participants included classroom teachers who work in schools, such as Bay Point and Perkins, in which the students are learning Spanish. They participated in the class in order to better facilitate the Spanish instruction in their schools, where students receive daily Spanish instruction

The two-hour weekly classes included presentation and practice of key phrases and vocabulary, practice with technology, and mini-grammar lessons. A highlight of each class was a cultural lesson built around food, which participants prepared and sampled. Dance and music was another integral part of the learning experience. The course was so popular that another has already been planned. It will begin **March 16 and run through April 27** (LMS #8004008C)

Amaya, Lewis, Rosado and Wyatt, all national board certified teachers, teach the class as a service to the district, for which they receive credit for mentoring hours. Many individuals from around the district have requested that similar classes be held in other locations in the district. The office of world languages is hoping that other national board certified teachers will be willing to form a class at a different location.

La Familia Contenta Grows

FLES teachers continue to work with the district's media production team to produce videos to help students learn Spanish. The video series, built around the lovable and zany family, *La Familia Contenta*, has been created to support the K-5 *Essential Learnings*.

All videos feature family members, portrayed by FLES teachers, engaged in conversation and action around a central theme. Spanish teachers interested in learning more about this series are encouraged to contact Jan Kucerik for more information.



Spanish Summer Immersion Program

Teachers are asked to please encourage students to complete the application for the 2006 **Spanish Summer Immersion Program** to be held at Eckerd College, **June 19-23**. Students who have completed two years of Spanish entering grades 9-12 in fall of 2006 are eligible. This year's theme is *La copa mundial*, and will feature language activities planned around sports and recreation. The application deadline is **May 5**. Partial scholarships are available. Applications can be found on the Pinellas County Schools' Office of World Languages web site:

www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/CI/languages/

Kudos to our Colleagues

Monica Diba, Countryside HS, whose workshop presented at the October, 2005, FFLA Conference was a finalist for "Best of Florida".

Marianna Steriadis, Tarpon Springs HS, who was invited to score the French Advanced Placement Exam in Princeton, NJ, for the third time, this June 10-18th, 2006. Each year

approximately 185 scholars of French from all over the world are invited to score; the group includes university professors and hs teachers.

Astrid Remon, PPHS, who successfully completed her *Transition to Teaching* program.

Sarita Stevens, who received her **fifth** nomination to *Who's*

Who Among American Teachers from a former student.

05-06 Outstanding Educator nominees: **Sylvia Amaya, Sandra Rosado, Paul Hern, Nora Smith, and Livia Wein. What an honor!**

Monica Diba and Sandra Rosado, who were both featured in the January, 06, edition of *NEA Today*. Monica submitted her input on dealing with cheating in the classroom, and Sandra is pictured teaching a fourth grade Spanish class at Perkins Ele



News from the Schools...Elementary and Middle Schools

Kennedy MS

Students are excited about the school's first Latin dance, to be held in the school's gymnasium in March. Hispanic students are looking forward to introducing their music and culture to the rest of the student body.

Palm Harbor MS

Advanced Spanish students are responding well to the classroom Spanish Immersion Plan, that guides them to speak only Spanish as much as possible during class. They have been particularly motivated to use Spanish to discuss community and current

events. Ms. Leopold also invites students to come before school to participate in extra learning, including both tutoring and cultural experiences.

T a r p o n S p r i n g s M S
Carissa Bracero's Spanish classes have started a pen-pal exchange with students from John Hopkins MS and Osceola MS. Students are finding functional purpose for their writing in Spanish and are enjoying immensely their "amigos de pluma". In addition to Ms. Bracero, participating teachers include Esther Gonzalez-Wright and Linda Santiago (Hopkins MS) and Mirian Arcila (Osceola MS).

Bay Point Elementary

Teacher Nilsa Gomez is creating a video featuring high school student commentary about their K-12 language learning experiences. The project honors the first group of FLES students, who started Spanish in kindergarten in 1993 and will graduate from high school this May. Students interviewed began their studies at BP Elementary, continued at Bay Point MS and will graduate from Lakewood HS.

News from the Schools....High Schools

Bayside HS

Students have been able to successfully read in Spanish by applying the comprehension strategies they have learned in language arts. In addition to acquiring Spanish, students are preparing for the FCAT.

Clearwater HS

The German Club enjoyed making valentines that included German love notes and

baking cookies. CHS also celebrated a combined honor society induction ceremony February 21.

East Lake HS

Teachers at ELHS are working to build classroom libraries and sharing reading strategies.

St. Petersburg HS

A new club, the Latin Dance Club, has

emerged at SPHS. Students are looking forward to enjoying the music and dance of Latin cultures and enhancing awareness of these cultures through song and dance.

Seminole HS

Spanish 3 and 4 students worked hard in preparation for FCAT by writing in response to FCAT prompts in Spanish. Students reported an improvement in vocabulary skills and gained confidence in their writing skills.

Upcoming Events

National Foreign Language Week: March 6-12; look for individual school celebrations in the March /April Polyglot

Statewide Immersion Day: March 10; Let us know how you celebrated in your school.

World Languages Field Day: Saturday, March 11 at Osceola High School, from 8:30-2:30. Participating teachers should please register on LMS #1004009C

Spring Break: March 27-31

WLTA Annual Celebration Banquet: April 21, East Bay Country Club

Spanish Summer Immersion Applications Due: May 5, 2006

Summer Motivation and Learning/Assessment Training: May 30-June 16, 2006

