

Polyglot

Editors: Nancy Engelman and Jan Kucerik

Pinellas County Schools

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Best wishes from the Office of World Languages for a new year filled with good health and many joys.

Jeannine Pursley Among 15 Outstanding Educator Finalists

Congratulations to Jeannine Pursley, who has been selected as one of fifteen finalists in the district's Outstanding Educator recognition program. Jeannine is one of three finalists in the category, "Commitment to Improvement of the Profession". Three finalists were named in each of five categories. A winner in each category and the 2007 Outstanding Educator will be announced at a dinner at Tropicana Field on February 13.

Jeannine has been a teacher of French and German for 37 years. Throughout her career, she has worked continuously to improve her teaching and to assist colleagues. She participates in extensive professional development on the local, state and national levels, contributes to multiple professional organizations and works hard to practice innovative teaching techniques that are consistent with international language acquisition research. She has served as

a new teacher mentor and world languages content coach for more than 10 years. She shares her expertise by presenting workshops to fellow teachers and by opening her classroom as a model classroom for colleagues. Jeannine is always eager to participate in training and to apply that training in order to grow as a teacher. She has been the recipient of numerous study scholarships offered by the American Association of Teachers of German and the Goethe Institute and was named Florida's German teacher of the year in 1993. Jeannine models the use of CRISS and KAGAN strategies as well as CLS processes and has helped produce application manuals to assist world languages teachers with implementation. She has participated actively in PEAK training and currently serves on the world languages assessment writing team. Jeannine is a vocal proponent for "reading in the con-

tent area" and has participated in multiple reading trainings in order to improve literacy for her students and to share the benefits of reading with colleagues. Teachers of world languages throughout Pinellas and Florida know Jeannine as a colleague who seeks ways to improve teaching and learning. She was part of the German government's Teacher-Training-Teachers Program offered by the Goethe Institute and served teachers throughout the Southeastern United States. Jeannine has led the new teacher training in Pinellas. She has conducted numerous day-long seminars during pre-school and designed and presented a series of follow-up workshops. She invites new teachers to her classroom to observe and spends time helping them understand and apply processes. She provides "model" language lessons for teachers and has devoted much time to mentoring colleagues.

TPRS Demonstration Teacher

Most recently, Jeannine has become the local leader in a national trend that supports a language teaching method known as TPRS (Teaching Proficiency Through Reading and Storytelling). An expert speaker of three languages, Jeannine understands the importance of comprehensible input for language acquisition and the power of reading and storytelling as sources of that input. She has, therefore, acquired a classroom library of children's books in French allowing her high school French students to participate regularly in Free Voluntary Reading. She collects data on the results and shares it with colleagues. Jeannine has made every attempt to seek training in TPRS and has used personal resources to attend the national TPRS conference each summer. She has taken advantage of the opportunity to study Spanish and Arabic using the method to prove to herself that it works and to better understand how her students feel learning a new language. Each time that Jeannine returns from a conference, she eagerly offers to share what she has learned with her colleagues. She has presented multiple workshops on TPRS and this summer taught the steps of the method in a full day workshop in Arabic. Her classroom is a model demonstration classroom, and many teachers have benefited from visiting her school and observing the method first-hand. Jeannine is a fine representative of the many teachers of world languages who make a difference everyday in the lives of their students and colleagues.

Kudos to Our Colleagues

Other teachers of world languages were also nominated as "outstanding educators" this year. Among those recognized by their schools or colleagues for outstanding talent and dedication were **Sylvia Amaya** (Immersion Program Coordinator), **Silvina Iglesias** (Sanderlin Elementary), **Livia Wein** (Seminole HS), and

Annette Collier (Pinellas Park HS). **Nadia McDonald**, French teacher at Gibbs HS, was nominated to "Who is Who Among American Teachers" for 2006. **Marianna Steriadis**, TSHS, was invited to serve as an AP Reader at this year's annual AP examination process.

Cano and Esbri Awards NBC Special congratulations to Diana Cano and Mildred Esbri, who were recently notified that they passed all the criteria to earn **National Board Certification**. They join a prestigious group of talented teachers of world languages who have formed a network of mentors for new teachers and colleagues seeking national board certification.

News from the Schools

Vive le français!

PARIS AT "THE PARK"

contributed by Annette Collier

Pinellas Park French students, French Club and French Honor Society members celebrated National French Week November 6-12. *La semaine du Français* is an opportunity for schools and communities throughout the U.S. to recognize the many contributions of the more than 125 million French speakers all over the world in the areas of science and medicine, literature and the arts, cuisine, sports, fashion and commerce and to celebrate *la culture française*. Members of *Le Cercle Français et la Société Honoraire de Français* worked for weeks to turn the halls of PPHS

into the streets of Paris complete with street signs, restroom and building signs, metro stations, and a giant painted *Tour Eiffel* and *Arc de Triomphe*. Each day on the morning announcements, there were French facts, a word of the day, and a trivia question related to the French-speaking world of more than 40 countries.

French Club and SHF members sampled French foods at our annual French Week *Fête* while students in class learned a few traditional French songs, *Frère Jacques*, *Alouette* and *Aux Champs-Élysées* as well as a traditional game of outdoor bowling, *la Pétanque*.

It was a fun and educational week in the City of Lights, with the *Language of Love*, learn-

ing about *la culture francophone*.

Merci beaucoup mes élèves!



Students Extend Learning through Community Service Projects

Throughout the month of December, students and teachers of world languages reached beyond the classroom to service the community and to connect to the culture of the languages they study. Of the many valuable activities that offer students the opportunity to extend their learning and use their language of study with native speakers, here are just a few examples of which the editor was made aware:

St. Petersburg High School

St. Petersburg HS planned a party for 233 disadvantaged Hispanic children from High Point Elementary. Students from the school's Key Club, Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society treated students to a party complete with a Mexican Santa and a generous bag of gifts for each student. The Office of World Languages staff and the Spanish Club at Lakewood HS also made contributions. Congratulations to Gloria Muñoz, SHH sponsor, who organized the event, and to Ana O'Brien, Spanish Club sponsor, as well as to Sandy Hammond and Gisela Torres. Thanks also to Jennifer Gil, Lakewood HS Spanish Club sponsor for working with her students in order to provide extra gift cards.

Lakewood High School

Lakewood HS conducted a toy drive among all Spanish classes. Three-hundred toys were donated to Bethel Ministries in Wimauma for children of migrant families.

Palm Harbor University High School

French Club members at Palm Harbor University High School sang in French at Macy's at the Countryside Mall on Saturday, December 2. The students drew customers to the store's *Lancombe* counter. Each student was given a gift bag for their time and service.

Sylvia Amaya Leads District's First Language Immersion Programs

After four and 1/2 years of implementing and building a FLES program at Campbell Park Elementary, Sylvia Amaya has accepted the challenge of coordinating the district's first Spanish language immersion programs. The programs are made possible by a Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant awarded to the district in October. The three-year grant will fund the start-up of a dual language immersion program at High Point Elementary in Clearwater and a partial immersion program at Ridgecrest Elementary in Largo. In each

students will spend approximately 50% of their school day learning in Spanish and 50% learning in English. Therefore, some content areas will be taught in Spanish and some in English. The program began as a pilot at High Point with two kindergarten classes. The make-up of these classes is about 1/2 Hispanic and 1/2 Anglo children, making it possible for each group to gain literacy both in their native language and in a new language. The program will begin at Ridgecrest in August of this year. Because there is not

a concentrated Hispanic population at Ridgecrest, it is assumed that most students involved in the program will be monolingual speakers of English. An outside evaluator will work closely with Sylvia to collect valuable attitudinal and student achievement data on both programs. This data, as well as the curriculum development and acquisition of materials to support the programs, will provide valuable information to the district for future expansion of elementary programs. Sylvia's void at Campbell Park has been filled by a wonderful new teacher, **Joanna Patrignani**.