

Polyglot

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Pinellas County Schools

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Teachers of world languages use best practices and state standards to facilitate student success in the global community.

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Pinellas Teachers Receive State Honors

Wein Wins Coveted Wershow Award for Leadership

Livia Wein, World Language Department Chair at Seminole HS, was awarded the prestigious 2006 *Irving Wershow Award* for Excellence in Leadership in the Profession of World Language Education by the Florida Foreign Language Association. Mrs. Wein received her award in the presence of more than 600 colleagues from throughout the state of Florida during the general session of the conference, held October 12-14, at the Sarasota Hyatt on the Bay. *The Irving Wershow Award* is the top award given annually at the state level in memory of the late Irving Wershow's distinguished career as a foreign language educator. The Florida Foreign Language Association

presents the award each year to the member who has demonstrated leadership at the regional, state and/or national level, served as a quality educator in his/her own right and promoted the teaching and learning of foreign languages, bilingual/bicultural education and/or English as a second language. Livia's contributions at the local, regional and state level are exemplary, and she represents well the talent and dedication of Pinellas County teachers of world languages.

Teachers of Promise

Two of Pinellas' newest teachers of world language were also honored at the Florida Foreign Language Conference. **Silvina Iglesias**, Sanderlin Elementary School, and **Cinthia McGill**, Bay Point Elementary were named "*Teachers of Promise*", an award given to teachers who have taught for three years or less. They were nominated by colleagues and were required for consideration by the Florida Foreign Language Executive Board. Ms. McGill were two educators recognized the innovations they have demonstrated and the contributions they have already made to world language study in Pinellas.



Vinson Goes to Head of the Class

Ruth Vinson, Tarpon Springs Middle School French teacher was nominated for Head of the Class by one of her Advanced French students, Brett Phillips. ABC Action News sponsors the Head of the Class program to recognize outstanding teachers in Tampa Bay. Deiah Riley one of the co-anchors for the ABC Action News Morning Show visited the French classroom on October 9, 2006. The news crew filmed activities in the classroom. During the visit, Mrs. Riley presented Madame Vinson with the Head of the Class award for going above and beyond in her efforts to educate our children. The program aired Monday, October 16th during the 6 a.m. newscast and Tuesday, October 17th during the 5 p.m. news. You can see it online at

Kudos to our Colleagues

Congratulations to **Crystal Rockne** (Dixie Hollins HS), **Pam Benton** (Boca Ciega HS), **Kathryn Olivero** (Largo HS), **Gail Lulek** and **Danny Boulieris** (Safety Harbor MS), all of whom were honored at an awards program held Friday, October 20 at the Stavros Institute as recipients of "Teach for Excellence" grants. Danny Boulieris and Gail Lulek received the Citigroup Mentor

Grant for their project, "Spanish Voices". They have implemented a peer teaching exchange between Gail's Spanish-speaking ESOL students and Danny's students learning Spanish. Kathryn Olivero was the recipient of two grants, one to promote reading in her classroom. Crystal Rockne, a first year teacher, is working hard to

promote her new American Sign Language program at Dixie Hollins. Pam Benton won an Aegon Corporation Developer Grant. The grant congratulates (with \$400) a teacher on an innovative and effective project he/she has developed over the last few years and allows him/her to share the project with other teachers at an expo in the spring. Benton also received \$200 to use for classroom supplies. Her project was a magazine done by AP students made up of the different types of writing they have done.

Special congratulations to Jeannine Pursley, French teacher at East Lake HS, who is one of 25 semi-finalists in the Outstanding Educator Teacher Recognition Program. Jeannine was honored in the category, Commitment to Improvement of the Profession. We are so proud!!!

News from the Schools...Elementary and Middle Schools

Bay Point MS welcomes Orietha Gnecco, a native of Colombia, a beginning teacher working with sixth graders.

Oak Grove MS discovered that the “esqueletos” for *Día de los Muertos* were so popular that students who do not take Spanish have been asking for the materials to make them. The Spanish Club has been very successful with its activities, including the preparation of Thanksgiving baskets for Hispanic families in the area.

Palm Harbor MS Beginning and Advanced students have also been learning about *Día de los Muertos* and participating in a variety of activities, such as the creation of cartoon calaveras inspired by the Mexican artist, José Guadalupe Posada.

St. Petersburg HS

The Sancho Panza chapter of the “SOCIEDAD HONORARIA HISPANICA” organized a cultural assembly that took place on October 27 during the last period of the day. About 500 students from Spanish and French classes attended the show. It was a fun, interesting and a great way to learn Hispanic culture. The program included: a piano piece by Taurina, a flute and piano duet of “La Habanera” of the opera Carmen, an original skit “La Limotina”, a take-off “La Tomatina” the Spanish tomatoes festival of Bunol, Spain, which was written and directed for this show by senior Hayley Guermack of **Gloria Muñoz’s** Spanish V class; three dances choreographed and performed by students: pasodoble, cumbia and salsa; the #1 song of the Spanish speaking world: “La Camisa Negra” accompanied by the guitar not by Juanes but by junior, Matt Moench; The Mexican legend of “La llorona” told in a song with the presence of the ghost; a flamenco guitar duet “el flamenco loco”, composed and executed by Matt Moench and John Paul especially for this show. The Spanish Honor Society collected about \$1500 in donations. The total amount will be sent to “Aldeas Infantiles S.O.S” of Bogotá, Colombia. The Sancho Panza Chapter was able to reach its goal for its international project.

Riviera MS will be initiating charter members into the school’s first Club de Español.

Coachman Fundamental students also celebrated *Día de los Muertos* with “Calaveras”, “esqueletos” and the use of CRISS strategies to compare and contrast the celebration to Halloween.

The FLES Team, including teachers from Bay Point, Perkins, Campbell Park, and Maximo, was once again transformed into “La Familia Cicatriz”. They spent two days visiting schools and performing a live stage show for children.

News from the Schools...

High Schools

Lakewood

The Spanish Club celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by creating a bulletin board in the main hallway entrance of the school announcing famous Spanish people during the morning announcements and having a fiesta with Spanish snacks and dancing. Spanish classes had a big celebration for *Día de los Muertos*. Each classroom became a “center”, where students enjoyed food, arts and crafts, and immersion in Spanish culture. **The French Club** will be taking their third annual trip to EPCOT November 17 to experience French language and culture right here in Florida. Highlights include a visit to the *Café de France* restaurant and the French, Moroccan and Canadian pavilions. Lakewood’s French Club, with nearly 30 members, grows each year. Activities include making and eating *croques-monsieur*, *crepes* and *fondue*, watching French movies and more.

Boca Ciega HS

The **Spanish Honor Society** collected two boxes of toiletries for a homeless shelter and will be wrapping gifts for Hospice House at Tyrone Square Mall every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Applications for membership have been distributed to first semester students and new members will be tapped the week after Thanksgiving break.

Field Trips: Teachers also took a group to Mahaffey Theatre to see the Gran Folklórico de Mexico November 6. It was a very exciting show. The costumes were fabulous. French students took a trip to EPCOT Center for the food festival. They had a wonderful time!

Dance Club

Students inspired by the movie “Take the Lead” with Antonio Banderas, have formed a ballroom dance club. They have gotten a professional dance teacher to volunteer to teach the classes. Attendance is averaging 55 students per meeting. So far the group has learned Merengue and Fox Trot.

State Competition

Celia Rubi and **Pam Benton** will be taking a group to State Spanish Competition and would like ideas for fundraisers that a small group of students can do to raise a lot of money.

Retirement

Finally, the Boca Ciega staff is trying to adjust to the idea of saying farewell to veteran colleague, Polly Serbanos, who has made the decision to retire in December.



Palm Harbor UHS

Leni Fernández, Spanish teacher, is teaching a Beginning Spanish for Adults component for the staff at her school. The school has enjoyed working with USF intern, **Michael Eby**, who we hope has aspirations of teaching in Pinellas. PHUHS would love to keep him! **Paula Hern** continues to entice students and colleagues with her *crepe* parties. **Rita Risco** is traveling more and more as an IB leader and instructor. We are so proud!

The Polyglot is a newsletter written by and for Pinellas teachers of world languages. Send news items to Jan Kucerik, Office of World Languages, Admin Building or e-mail to Kucerikj@pcsb.org