



## Dr. Wilcox Signs Proclamation in Honor of Year of Languages

WHEREAS, the United States Senate has declared 2005 as The Year of Foreign Language Study; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, The United States Congress recognized the importance of foreign language study, formalizing it in the No Child Left Behind Act by designating foreign languages as a core academic area; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 Florida Legislature passed legislation requiring Florida public schools to develop a K-12 Foreign Language Plan; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that students with four or more years of foreign language study score higher on college entrance examinations than students who do not; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County Schools welcomes students and staff from many different countries, cultures, and language backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County Schools offers K-12 instruction in a variety of world languages and teaches English to speakers of other languages representing more than one hundred different cultures; and

WHEREAS, the World Languages Teachers' Association of Pinellas County participates actively in state and national conferences and student competitions and sponsors a local World Languages Field Day each year for students, teachers and the community; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County Schools works collaboratively with the University of South Florida via the Foreign Language Education Leadership Council on advocacy, training, curriculum support and development, and teacher training, and whereas the University of South Florida is the locus of innovative research on Second Language Acquisition through its graduate programs in Applied Linguistics, Foreign Language Education, and Second Language Acquisition/Instructional Technology; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County students and their families have growing social, cultural, and economic ties to the global community, offering great opportunities but presenting new challenges to communicate with and understand their international partners from different language and cultural backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, our community's general awareness of the importance, benefits, and processes of foreign language study is limited; and

WHEREAS, the demand for foreign language teachers is greater than their availability:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, do hereby proclaim the 2005-2006 academic year as THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES, and call upon all the members of our school community to become familiar with services and benefits offered by language education programs.

Clayton M. Wilcox, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Pinellas County Schools



Northeast High School's  
Spanish Honor Society  
Participates in Hurricane Relief  
*Project Katrina*

**submitted by Gretchen Bryan**

During the week of September 19th, the Spanish Honor Society sponsored "Project Katrina". A school-wide competition was held among second period classes. The class donating the most school supplies was treated to a continental breakfast by members of the school's chapter of *La Sociedad Honoraria*. Twenty-two boxes containing everything from backpacks to glue sticks were then delivered to East Baton Rouge Parish School District.

Hopkins Middle School Celebrates  
Hispanic Heritage Month

**submitted by Linda Santiago**

*John Hopkins principal, Maureen Thornton, enjoys an empanada with Spanish students watching.*

On Friday, October 7th, Linda Santiago and Esther Gonzalez-Wright, Spanish teachers at John Hopkins MS, cooked for their classes in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The menu included *pastelillos/empanadas de queso and Jupiña*. Even their new principal, Maureen Thornton came to enjoy this cultural experience.

**Teachers Share Expertise**

Congratulations to Monica Diba (Countryside HS), Gloria Muñoz (St. Petersburg HS) Sylvia Amaya (Campbell Park EL), Nilsa Gómez and Cinthia McGill (Bay Point EL), and Lilly Lewis, Sandra Rosado and Maria Wyatt (Perkins EL) on their successful workshop presentations during the 37th annual FFLA conference held in St. Augustine, October 13-15. Monica presented "one-page" of hands-on activities to be used at various stages of a unit—presentation, practice, and review. Participants "learned by doing" and took away valuable and

practical ideas. Gloria Muñoz, recognized last year by the national organization as an outstanding honor society sponsor, shared activities and projects that have contributed to the success of her chapter. The Pinellas County FLES Team presented two workshops. The first was a networking workshop for NNELL, the National Network for Early Language Learning. The second demonstrated content-based learning activities based on the K-5 Essential Learnings for World Languages.



*Some members of the cast of La Familia Contenta, a video series produced by the Pinellas County FLES Team, take a break from filming recently to pose for a photo. They are (left to right): Belle Badell, Sylvia Amaya (seated), John Meros, and Robin Danzak.*

**FLES Team Wins State Honors**

Congratulations to the Pinellas County FLES team whose video, *La Familia Contenta at Home*, was recognized as best of the *Teacher-made Materials* at the 37th annual FFLA Conference held in St. Augustine October 13-15. The team, more recently with help from the district's media production team, has produced a total of eight videos. The engaging stories built around eccentric characters played by the teachers are aligned to the world languages Essential Learnings and provide high-interest contexts for language presentation and practice.

***Special congratulations to Linda Santiago (Hopkins MS), Executive Director of FFLA, on a very, very successful first state conference. Kudos also to Regina Bringas (Meadowlawn MS) and Esther González Wright (Hopkins MS) for the invaluable assistance they provided to the executive director.***

Upcoming Events

**November 3**-Field Day Committee Meeting  
Panera's (Bryan Dairy and Starkey) 4:45-6:45

**November 8**-Content Training  
Admin Building, B-202 5:00-8:00 p.m.