

**Communication  
Engagement  
Commitment**

# Fort Bend World Languages

**Volume 1, Issue 1**

**December 2012**

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## January/February Language Events:

- CBE testing for Seniors ONLY- January 26
- Farrington Contest—February 2
- Houstonfest— February 2
- State German Contest— February 23

## Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the FBISD World Language Newsletter

*"Doest thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."* Benjamin Franklin; American statesman, scientist, and writer

Time is the one commodity that we all get in equal portions, yet it remains so completely illusive in so many ways to each of us. Almost every challenge that we all face on a daily basis would seemingly be solved by adding one or two hours to our day or by freeing up an additional half hour or so within our daily schedules. Yet, if we were to magically receive the gift of more time, would it really make a difference without the commitment to first making the best use of the time that we already have? Think about how even the very technologies that are supposed to save us time very often are the things that we spend the most time on: email is one example.

The purpose of this newsletter which will be periodically published beginning next semester is three-

fold:

1. Information
2. Education
3. Recognition

This newsletter should provide a platform for information and ideas in the areas of classroom instruction, advocacy for World Languages, latest research and best-practices, and news about our World Language teacher and student accomplishments and campus events. We have a lot to learn from each other and hopefully this publication will help us to do so in a concise format that will save of that precious commodity—TIME!

Teachers will be invited to send in information to be included in the newsletter, both of a professional and personal nature, to the extent that they wish to share.

With warm wishes for a restful and fun holiday break to each

and every one of you! Stay safe and come back refreshed in January.

Happy Holidays!

The Editor

Sandy Harvey



**Frohe Weihnachten**

## Congratulations to our 2012 Teachers of the Year!

**Congratulations go to the following 2012 Teachers of the Year:**

**Keri Parr** teaches Spanish and 8th Grade Inter-Departmental Studies at First Colony Middle School.

**Walter Benavides** teaches Spanish Levels I, IA, IB and Spanish for Spanish Speakers at Christa McAuliffe Middle School.

Other teachers who were **finalists** on their campuses are:

**Ruth Jeffery**, Spanish, Dulles HS

**Sharron Jenkins**, Spanish, Hightower HS

**Jennifer Pfalzgraf Wordenhoff**, Spanish, Travis HS

*Congratulations to all!*



# Sharpening the Saw and Calibrating the GPS

Teachers will find the following opportunities for growth and involvement in the ongoing curriculum alignment to standards process in eLearning, for the Spring semester.....

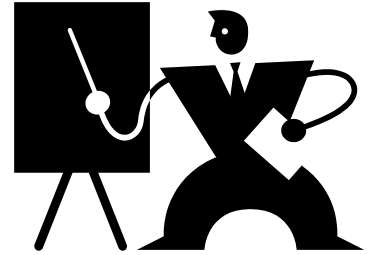
- February 5 4:30—6:30 p.m. ....Hitting the Target through Engagement and Communication in World Languages Come learn from your colleagues across the district who are keeping their language classes in the target language by creating an environment that is engaging, meaningful, relevant and performance-based.

- World Language Curriculum and Assessment Focus Group Five two-hour sessions in which teachers will work in level groups to review and revise the current curriculum documents, based on proficiency standards and accountability testing. Each level group will also develop and approve performance assessments for upcoming units. All meetings are 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

January 17 April 18

February 12 May 23

March 26



Teachers of all languages are invited to participate, regardless of the level of development of curriculum products for each language.

## TARGETing Proficiency Standards

“Research indicates that effective language instruction must provide significant levels of meaningful communication and interactive feedback in the target language in order for students to develop language and cultural proficiency....ACTFL therefore recommends that language educators and their students use the target language as exclusively as possible (90% plus) at all levels of instruction during instructional time and, when feasible, beyond the classroom.” (ACTFL Position Statement,

adopted May, 2010) Here are a few of the strategies suggested by Douglass Crouse in his article: “Some Strategies to Get Students Speaking the Language”:

- Start the year with an explanation of why staying in the TL is so important and follow up with motivational chats throughout the year. Praise students—individually and collectively— when they make the effort. (Remember that the new

semester brings you another opportunity to start over as if it were the beginning of the year—take advantage of that opportunity!)

- Use activities such as inside-outside circles that allow students to practice common expressions and structures....
- Try a reward system in which students can earn points for maintaining the target language.

## Saying Sayonara to a Dear Friend

On October 23, 2012 we lost a beloved teacher, colleague, and friend, Yoshiko Brotherton. After beginning her career in a program teaching American astronauts Japanese, Yoshiko moved to the High School level, teaching Japanese at Clements and Kempner High Schools. Yoshiko was born in Yokosuka, Japan and moved to Texas in 1963, considering it home from then on. She became a U.S. citizen in 1974. Yoshiko was married for 46 years to Hugh Brotherton, who passed away several years ago. She leaves behind 3 sons, three daughters-in-law, and nine grandchildren. Yoshiko was a talented artist who painted and created flower arrangements, being an avid patron of the arts. She was well-loved through-

out not only the Houston area, but the Texas Japanese professional community as well. Yoshiko was a long-time member and officer in the Japanese American Citizens League of Houston. Anyone wishing to contribute to that organization in Yoshiko’s memory is encouraged to send their donation to JAACL Houston Chapter of Houston; c/o Howard Lindsay, Treasurer; 4302 Waynesboro ; Houston, TX 77035.

Yoshiko will forever be in our hearts and memories. Sayonara, Yoshiko-sensei! You are greatly missed by so many.



Always the adventurer, Yoshiko rode horses with the group of students who visited from Japan in 2009.

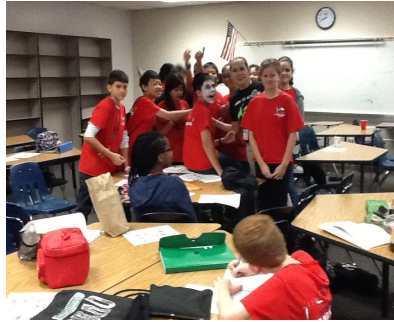
## Fort Bend WL Classes Celebrate El Dia de los Muertos

Teachers throughout the district engaged their students in many different activities that were centered around the tradition of el Dia de los Muertos. Students and teachers at Quail Valley Middle School presented a Gallery Walk of Altars and other artwork related to the celebration that takes place in many parts of Latin America on November 1 and 2. Dante Urquide, Spanish teacher at QVMS, worked with the Fine Arts department to create this exhibit. Students were allowed to vote on the people who they would honor and the two people selected were Steve Jobs and Bob Marley.



Art Gallery of Altars and Artwork

Meanwhile, Spanish teachers Sandra Araque and Elizabeth Romo, QVMS GT Spanish teachers, hosted students for a La Catrina face-painting activity along with refreshments that included Pan de Muerto and Calabazas de Azúcar.



GT Spanish Teacher, Sandra Araque poses with her students who just created their Catrina....

Cheryl Fuentes-Wagner, Spanish teacher and department chair at Kempner HS, reports that her Spanish 3PreAP students did spoken tributes on Voxopop. Spanish Club students at Clements High School held a food drive in conjunction with the holiday, under the supervision of Rose Jenkins, Spanish Club Sponsor. The students of Zinnia Bayona, Spanish teacher at Baines MS participated in a distance learning activity.



## Dulles High School Spanish teacher achieves National Board Certification

The pathway to National Board Certification for a teacher is a daunting one, not only in terms of time required, but also in the process of self-reflection and personal growth. According to Ruth Jeffery, who just found out that she succeeded in her bid for NBPTC certification several weeks ago, this process is one that "will change the way you look at what you do." Ruth began the process in October of 2011 and finished

in May of 2012. The process included four portfolio submissions and sitting for five exams over literature, culture, language acquisition, speaking, and listening. "This was by far the most rewarding and enriching professional development that I have had in my teaching career." states Ruth Jeffery, a Spanish teacher at Dulles High School, who began her teaching career at Elkins High School. ¡Felicidades, Ruth! For

more information on the process to achieve National Board Certification, go to [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

"This was by far the most rewarding and enriching professional development that I have had in my teaching career." - Ruth Jeffery

## Have you seen?.....

Here are some websites and blogs that you may want to check out at your leisure over the break—in case you get bored with all the rest, books, movies, and other things that you'll be spending time with.....

Toni Theisen, Former ACTFL Teacher of the Year has a wonderful WIKI with all kinds of resources—amazing! Andrea Henderson, French teacher at EHS has some links on her page.

<http://tonitheisen.wikispaces.com/home>

The Creative Language Class—fabulous site!

<http://creativelanguageclass.wordpress.com/>

Another great site:


<http://musicuentos.com>

Spanish Authentic Resources—

<http://spanauthenticresources.wikispaces.com/>

Target Language site—run by Shelli Brown, one of our presenters from last summer.....

<http://target-language.wikispaces.com/>



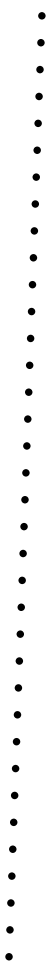
16431 Lexington Blvd.  
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Phone: 281-634-1237  
Fax: 281-327-1237  
E-mail: [sandy.harvey@fortbendisd.com](mailto:sandy.harvey@fortbendisd.com)



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*This is a publication of the World Language Department of Fort Bend ISD. The purpose of this publication is to provide news of things that are happening on campuses throughout the district, to inform teachers of the accomplishments of their colleagues and of upcoming professional opportunities, to provide resources for instruction and research on best practices. In upcoming issues, teachers will be invited to submit articles for publication. Articles will be accepted based on guidelines and specifications that will be provided soon.*

*Do you have news that you wish to share with your colleagues? Strategies that you wish to share? Student successes?*

*Email [sandy.harvey@fortbendisd.com](mailto:sandy.harvey@fortbendisd.com) .....*

## **CIA (Curriculum Instruction Assessment) Nothing Covert about it.....**

This section will contain updates on curriculum, Instructional Strategies, and news on upcoming Assessment practices and procedures.

*\*PCG is the new name for D2SC*

### **Curriculum Documents/PCG**

- Look for Target Language Task documents for the upcoming units for Spanish 1 through 3 in PCG (formerly known as D2SC).
- Spanish 1A (7th grade) Teacher to Teacher Notes are complete for the second semester
- Authentic Reading and Listening sources are being added to all units. Please share if you find any that you think should be uploaded to PCG.
- Feedback requested: Are you using the Vocabulary lists with links to Quizlet? (Thanks for Francisco Barocio-Ramirez at Travis for providing those). If they are being used, he will continue to provide them for us. Let us hear from you!

### **Best Instructional Practices**

How to use the Target Language Task documents. There is no ONE way to make these work for your students. On Keri and Megan's Creative Language Class site, there was one post where one of the ladies talks about how she uses them in her class. Here's the link....

<http://creativelanguageclass.wordpress.com/class-routines/stamp-sheets/>

### **Exit Strategy—**

The Daily Dozen. Keep this list of questions handy and each day select one or two questions to have students answer at the end of the class period. They may answer them on post-it notes or text answers to PollEverywhere.com or Todaysmeet.com. Here are a few of the questions. The full resource will be loaded on PCG on your level's At A Glance page.

- 1) The thing that made the most sense to

me today was....

- 2) One thing I just don't understand is....
- 3) When someone asks me what I did in Spanish/French/Chinese today, I can say....
- 4) One thing I would like more information about is....

### **Assessment**

In levels one through three of Spanish and level one of French, we will be meeting to develop unit assessments for required use by all district teachers of those levels. The first assessment for the first unit will be provided for you and will be posted to PCG/D2SC during the break. We will be developing the other assessments throughout the semester at the WL Curriculum and Assessment Focus Group meetings referenced in the Sharpening the Saw article on page 2.