

The IHLA Newsletter

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Happy New Year!, سنة جديدة سعيدة, Maligayang bagong Taon, С новым годом, Šťastný nový rok, and Buon Anno!

On behalf of IHLA, we hope all you and those close to you celebrated a wonderful, full of light and Happy New Year start to 2022! Most of all, that the whole year through you and those you care for have good health and many happy memory making moments to carry you through 2022.



As the New Year starts, we begin to prepare for our wonderful and fun Mother Language Day 2022! Thank you to all our IHLA Schools who have responded thus far to participate in the Performance and/or the MLD Book. As per the email messages you have received, our MLD Committee: Krishna Gupta, Anupama Deshpande and Kuljeet Bhuee are spearheading the event with the assistance of Coordinators, Grace Alarcon-Isla and Marina Castro. As per your emails, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any one of them 😊

We are happy and proud to announce that IHLA was awarded the Conditional Grant for 2021/2022 from Alberta Education (AE). One of its comments to IHLA in its awarding was the value IHLA puts into its Professional Development Learning Sessions for Teachers and Principals. This said, we look forward to a second half of the year with two (2) coming up this month! Look for details in your emails. Along these same lines, AE highlighted IHLA’s commitment to moving forward with the use of social media in order to create a wider network during this last year and thanks to our IT Coordinator, Marina, we are now on Instagram (#edmontonihla)! Please connect and follow IHLA as we start on this new social media adventure!

Don’t forget to send on any events, news, activities and just “we wanted to let you all know” news items to the IHLA Newsletter! It is a great way to let all your colleagues in IHLA know what you are doing at your school AND for the rest of the world of international and heritage languages to know what our amazing, dedicated, and awesome schools in Alberta are doing.

For now, I wish you all a good start to the New Year, may it bring you and all those in your community and circles all that you hope, need and with good wishes attached.

In solidarity,
Antonella Cortese
President 2021/2022

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~A warm welcome to our new coordinators; Ms Grace Alarcon – Isla, Program Coordinator for IHLA, and Ms Marina Castro, IT Coordinator~



Hello! *Kamusta!* My name is Grace Alarcon-Isla and I am the new IHLA Coordinator. I am very excited to be working with everyone in our diverse heritage and multicultural association. I have graduated at the University of Alberta in Education and have taught in the elementary and junior high school level for over 20 years. I've taught in Calgary, Edmonton, Rainbow Lake and Chateh. My background in Early literacy, curriculum development, education resource acquisition and English as a Second language, will be an asset in helping our member IHLA schools in a variety of ways.

As a child, I was privileged enough to have met people of various cultures and have ventured into learning other heritages in my adult life. I am eager to learn each and every member IHLA school's culture and learn some basic phrases from you to help me connect with your school population. My goal is to make sure that all of our IHLA member schools will not only thrive in their independent schools but have the ability to further share their heritage within our IHLA association and outward to the general community.

I was born in the Philippines but grew up in Brunei before moving to Canada as a teen with my family. The importance of personal heritage became apparent to me as a young child in elementary school, when I noticed that I went to different heritage schools (Malay, Mandarin, Punjabi) with my friends but have no knowledge of my own Filipino heritage. Much of a struggle for many families from other countries coming to Canada, you learn the cultures and heritage that is available where you live. I was fortunate to have spent 5 years in the Philippines to learn my language and culture prior to immigrating to Canada with my family. We are all fortunate to have a space and place to be able to express our heritage and spread the wisdom of language and culture to the generation that follows us. IHLA has made that opportunity for heritage schools in our membership to flourish as advocating for one's heritage is better when ONE voice is heard for a common cause and mission: LEARNING our Mother languages and passing it onto the next generation. It is as much of importance to learn the cultures of where we currently live (Canada) but it is more valuable to know our own heritage and to pass it on to our children.

I look forward to meeting with you and your schools personally in the coming months. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, queries or an invitation to visit your schools. I am here to learn from you as much as I may have experiences to share with you.

Sa ating muling pagkikita (Until our next meeting),

Grace Alarcon-Isla
IHLA Coordinator



Hello to all of you! My name is Marina Castro and I am the new IT Coordinator at IHLA. I am very excited to join IHLA and to get to know and work alongside many of you. I am very passionate about languages, I am a native Romanian speaker, and I speak English, Italian, French and Spanish fluently. In my childhood home, we would speak a few languages on a regular basis. I grew up with Romanian and Italian, but I was more interested

in learning English and French in school because my family did not speak English apart from my mother.

Since education has been part of my life for quite some time, I enjoy blending music, early childhood and languages in my instruction as a teacher. I have lived and worked as a teacher in Hong Kong for almost eight years, and I thoroughly enjoyed that experience. I hold a TESOL certificate, and I taught English as a second language in various school settings. It also opened my mind to various cultures and habits, I learned a bit of Cantonese too, I absolutely love Chinese food and I miss it a lot! But at the same time, I got to know the culture around education pretty well. I worked in international schools where I got to experience how young children are pushed to do well in a competitive environment. I was so passionate about education that I completed a dissertation on music education and how competitions can promote entries for children in elite schools. This process helped me understand better the culture in Hong Kong, but I also realised the teacher I wanted to be as well as mother. When I decided that I was ready to become a mother, both my husband and I have decided that Canada would be a better environment for our children. I moved here in Edmonton in August 2019.

Since September 2019 I have been an assistant teacher at CPLI Italian School, and I am now the happy mother of a 14-month-old babygirl who is extremely active and playful and super assertive about the world around her. We speak 3-4 languages at home, and we try to keep up with her.

I look forward to working with you all and hopefully this coming year will allow us to have more events in person. Please email me at itcoordinatorihla@gmail.com if you have any questions, or if you would like to tell me about your language experiences.

~Mother Language Day 2022 Event~

2022 Theme: How does learning my heritage language help me grow?

International Mother Language Day is Monday
February 21, 2021



All schools are invited to create content for either:

- 1.) The MLD Book
- 2.) The MLD Celebration through a 5-7 min video performance.
- 3.) Both the MLD Book and Celebration

THE MLD BOOK

<p>IDEAS</p>	<p>Pre-K – Kindergarten: Making new friends, learn about nature, learn math</p> <p>Primary School: Connect with grandparents.</p> <p>Junior High: Gaining Patience; Overcoming mistakes faster</p> <p>High School: Gain a different worldview; use for university credit</p> <p>Adults: Reclaim their identity; grow job prospects; challenge yourself</p>
<p>CRITERIA</p>	<p>All ages invited to participate (Pre-k to Adults)</p> <p>Each Student’s Name (in English or Heritage Language) Attached to work</p> <p>1 Piece of work per student only. Maximum one page long</p> <p>Work can be typed, written in ink or marker. No pencil (it is not easy to read)</p> <p>Each school will have an “About this school page/bio”</p> <p>All work should be submitted digitally (PDF or Word) by February 4, 2022</p> <p>No pictures taken from the internet (For copyright reasons) only personal pictures only.</p> <p>For any underage students, a guardian has to give permission for work to be published in Mother Language Day – also to participate in virtual MLD Day.</p>
<p>SEND TO:</p>	<p><u>itcoordinatorihla@gmail.com</u> by Feb 4, 2022</p>

~News from our schools~



News from Ukrainian Language Classes for Adults (ULCA)

By Lesia Perritt, Principal



Due to COVID protocols, classes are not being held during the 2021-22 fall/winter term. However, we wish to share our Ukrainian Christmas traditions with you.

Many Ukrainians still celebrate Christmas according to the Julian calendar. In welcoming the Christ Child, Christmas Eve or *Святий Вечір/Sviatyy Vechir*, meaning Holy evening, is observed with great solemnity and joy on January 6th, or on December 24th according to the Gregorian calendar.

Because Ukraine is an agrarian country, Christmas traditions include products of the land. A sheaf of wheat, *дідух/didukh*, is placed in a corner under an icon of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child. The grains represent ancestry. A round bread, *колач/kolach*, or three-tiered

representing the Holy Trinity, form the centrepiece. The candle is representative of Christ, as the light of the world.

Photo copyright L.Perritt

The meal begins when the children see the first star in the sky. The family assembles around the table singing 'God Eternal'- *Бог Предвічний/Boh Predvichney*, the most famous carol which has hymn-like status. This is followed by the proclamation: Christ is Born! *Христос Родився!/Khrystos Rodyvsia* and responded with Let us Glorify Him! *Славім Його!/Slavim Yoho!*

The Christmas Eve supper is made up of 12 lenten dishes, meatless and dairy-free, commemorating the 12 Apostles of Christ. It is the last day of a 40-day advent fast in which almsgiving, prayer and personal reflection dominate. The Christmas Eve meal begins with a serving of cooked wheat, poppy seed, honey and nuts which represents ancestry and a wish for prosperity and a bountiful harvest. Additional dishes include variations of *борщ/borshch*, fishes, *пирогов/пироги* with varied fillings, *голубці/holubtsi* - cabbage rolls, mushroom gravy, seasoned mashed white beans, fruit compote, poppy seed rolls and buns with fillings.

Різдво/Rizdvo or Christmas Day is celebrated by attending the Divine Liturgy at church. People break their fast with other traditional foods and visit extended family and friends. Carollers go from house to house proclaiming the birth of Christ in songs and greetings.

Joyous Holidays! *Веселих Свят!/Veselykh Sviat!*
May 2022 bring you Peace and Joy!



News from Comitato Promotore della Lingua Italiana

By Antonella Cortese, Principal

Inverno

And with it what Mother Nature can help us create for Natale!

The Comitato Promotore della Lingua Italiana-Italian Language School is in its 2nd Year of Scuola all'Aperto! As a part of its activities, its students are always planning ahead knowing that "durante l'inverno" (during the winter) they won't find what they can find "in autunno" (in autumn). This said, CPLI students started "cercando e scoprendo" (searching and discovering), all the materials that they used to create this year's beautiful and fun gifts for those they care for and love.

Children spent the autumn learning about the autumn season: Changing colours, the falling of leaves and pinecones, and about acorns (that they grow on trees and the "hat" falls off. We also noticed and gathered the less strong and thinner branches ("rametti") used for creating our "Alberi di Natale" and larger branches have "anelli" (rings) and by cutting them into slices, we can create "un piatto", a plate for the base of our candle gift.

Looking forward what FULL ON Inverno has to offer us in learnings and the "primavera" (spring) soon to come!





News from Maria Chrzanowska Polish School

By Agata Guzik, Principal



The students of Maria Chrzanowska Polish School took part in a special project throughout the first months of the school year! The project was created in collaboration with a school in Siedlce, under supervision of Stowarzyszenie Wspolnota Polska and financed by the Ministry of Education in Poland.

We took part in three online group meetings with Siedlce, where we exchanged personal presentations and information about our respective cities. Later, we organized a poster contest titled “My City Through My Eyes”, where students presented their visions of the city they live in.

As part of this project, we also completed creative workshops where students built models of the two city halls - the Edmonton City Hall and “ratusz”—the city hall in Siedlce. We then took part in a downtown tour of Edmonton where students visited the biggest landmarks in and around Churchill Square and became acquainted with their history and meaning.

Students from both schools found the exchange interesting and worthwhile to their learning.





News from Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School

By Krystyna Dembowski. Principal



For the first time in the history of the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School in Edmonton, the school took part in the project "Together for Education". This project is funded by Ministry of Education and Science in Poland for the implementation of the assignment: "Polonia Family". The purpose of the project is the partnership between Polish schools operating in the education system in other countries with schools in Poland. This cooperation includes also social organizations abroad that teach Polish

language art, history, geography, Polish culture, and many other subjects taught in this beautiful language.

Our partner school in Poland for our project: "Together for Education" – "East – West – Poland connects us" is the elementary Sybiraks School Nr 4 in Bialystok.

This project enables two-way collaboration and integration of children living in Canada and Poland, to whom schools give the opportunity to create educational projects

that meet the interests of both parties. Because of their multicultural profit both schools in Edmonton and in Poland have implemented two educational blocks: Multicultural Edmonton and Multicultural Bialystok.

Various groups of children and young people took part in optional classes in Polish language art, history and culture of the polish regions, projects, workshops, and competitions. The school in Poland organized an educational fieldtrip to the south of Poland. Students visited historic places that symbolize patriotism, determination of Polish citizens to protect their national identity, heritage, and the beauty of the national landscape. Photos and reports from this trip have been posted on our school website www.pshs.ca.

Henryk Sienkiewicz School in Edmonton organized an educational fieldtrip called "In the footsteps of Polish Pioneers in Alberta". Students traveled to some Alberta towns and visited few churches and cemeteries in search for Polish settlements and Polish pioneers.

Our school also visited Beechmount Cemetery where students laid poppies on the graves of war veterans as part of the 11th annual No Stone Left Alone Remembrance Day ceremony. A delegation from various school grades laid flowers at the Monument of Polish Soldiers at the Holy Cross Cemetery.



School also organized an art and literacy contest with title: "Celebration of Polish Independence Day and Remembrance Day in Canada".

Students of the senior classes took part in historical workshops and conducted interviews (via zoom) with people who survived exile to Siberia and participated in the battle of Monte Cassino during World War II.

The main goal of the project is to build historical awareness and identity among children and young people in both communities and to continue partnership in the following years.

Descriptions and photos of the implementation of this project are included in a special edition of the

school newspaper "Sienkiewicz's Pen" – also on the webpage of our school.

Teachers from all classes were involved in the implementation of this project, but nevertheless the most work, dedication and time was devoted by the following teachers: Barbara Naletlich, Violetta Stryjski, Monika Jurkiewicz, Bożena Gaciąg and Krzysztof Nikćsin.

The entire project was supervised by the School Principal Krystyna Dembowski.

~Free Indigenous Courses at University of Alberta~



Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting

national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions. (University of Alberta website)

For more information about the course and to enrol, please follow the link below:

[Indigenous Canada | Coursera](#)

~Upcoming IHLA Professional Development~

The Show Must Go On - hosted by Tracy Carroll

Monday, January 17, 2022, 7-9 PM

Join us at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83309665921?pwd=WWYyOHV5ZXNpd04xVE5iWG9oeHBQQT09>

Using theatre games, speech exercises, movement and text, this hands-on workshop will focus on implementing drama activities into the second language classroom and enhancing Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and more. This session will address the cognitive and social benefits in incorporating drama in second language lessons and will spark lots of creative ideas for your classroom.

Developing plurilingual identities - hosted by Renata Peskova I

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 6-8 PM

Join us at: <https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/68385102641>

This PD session builds on the findings and ideas from my PhD research at the University of Iceland, called School Experience of Plurilingual Students: A Multiple Case Study from Iceland. Plurilingual students in heritage language schools possess unique linguistic repertoires that are both a part of their linguistic identities, and a valuable, rich linguistic resource. In this workshop, the participants will learn how to utilize their students' and their own linguistic resources to strengthen the plurilingual identities of their students, to scaffold HL learning, and to teach towards a better language awareness and transfer of language skills. At the end of the workshop, the participants will have a good understanding of the concept of linguistic resources and will have learned a few methods to utilize them for HL instruction.

Multi-Modal Learning Part 2 – hosted by Dr. Olenka Bilash

April: Exact date and time to be determined

A continuation of “how do you move beyond pen and paper activities in your classes”? Do you want your students to be actively engaged in their learning? How do you use all of your senses when learning? How do you develop your lessons in a way that each student gets the information that they need? In this session you will learn about multimodal learning. Pictures, texts, speeches, stories, dance, song, drama and expressions are great ways to make lessons interactive for all learners in a heritage language class. This will be a continuation of Dr. Bilash's Part 1 workshop held on June 7, 2021.

~Follow us on social media~



Please follow us on our Instagram @edmontonihla and International Heritage Language Association our Facebook page for more updates.

~Being a member in good standing~

To be an IHLA member in good standing your school needs to a) complete a registration form, b) pay IHLA membership fees, c) participate at MLD through a table (and a book or presentation), d) volunteer at IHLA fundraising events, and e) participate in at least 3 IHLA sponsored professional development sessions.