

The IHLA Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 3

Editor: Marina Castro

April 4, 2022

~ President’s Message ~

Dear IHLA Colleagues and Friends,

It is with a bittersweet heart that I write you all in this quarter’s Newsletter.

We started our New Year with more hope, more cheer as we make our way through, ever so closer to gathering together with those close to us, colleagues, and students with less apprehension and worry for each other and ourselves. This is reflected in our 19th Annual Mother Language Day Celebration that, though held virtually (again), we saw many more schools participate which was a joy to see, hear and sing along. For this, on behalf of IHLA, I am grateful to all our Member Schools and Students who made this day possible and so enjoyable to watch.

As the days and only short weeks passed, we have also seen (again) the desperate and incredibly painful side of what imposed *armed* conflict can bring. As of 2021, and continuing to today, there are approximately 40 defined armed conflicts around the world. On February 24th, 2022, the world added another: The armed Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In trying to make sense of it, as I write this piece, I have no words, in my heritage language nor English to express what is in my heart. One thing is certain, our work in teaching heritage language and culture in order to promote greater intercultural understanding, appreciation of common values and ideals cross-culturally, and above all, PEACE for all to live, work, be, and grow in all countries must continue. Dialogue between and amongst our heritage language communities near and far must continue, leaving a better legacy than what we found for our children must continue.

In my reading in these weeks, I found the site: <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/arts-letters/articles/prayer-for-those-who-stayed> and there, the beautiful poem shared by Jake



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Marmar (a Ukrainian Jew) who was teaching poetry the day of the armed invasion into Ukraine by Russia, Wildpeace by Yehuda Amichai an Israeli poet:

*Not the peace of a cease-fire,
not even the vision of the wolf and the lamb,
but rather
as in the heart when the excitement is over
and you can talk only about a great weariness.
I know that I know how to kill,
that makes me an adult.
And my son plays with a toy gun that knows
how to open and close its eyes and say Mama.
A peace
without the big noise of beating swords into ploughshares,
without words, without
the thud of the heavy rubber stamp: let it be
light, floating, like lazy white foam.
A little rest for the wounds—
who speaks of healing?
(And the howl of the orphans is passed from one generation
to the next, as in a relay race:
the baton never falls.)
Let it come
like wildflowers,
suddenly, because the field
must have it: wildpeace.*

The poem spoke to me as I hope it resonates with all of you who kindly read our IHLA newsletter.

Our hearts and thoughts are with the people of and in Ukraine, always.

Respectfully,
Antonella Cortese
IHLA President 2021/2022



IHLA AGM

2022

IHLA Annual General Meeting – June 8, 2022 (time TBA)

Dear IHLA Members and Supporters,

On June 8th, 2022 IHLA will hold their Annual General Meeting. Coordinators Grace and Marina will be sending out a Google Poll regarding the modality within which it will take place. At best, IHLA's goal is to have a hybrid meeting whereby to accommodate all members attending online and in person at the Edmonton Intercultural Center.

This year is a voting year for IHLA. There will be 4 Board Member positions available to be filled during the AGM. For IHLA to keep moving forward and progressive, everyone from the IHLA membership has a chance to serve on the board. There is much talent and experience within the membership and with the new Coordinator team and remaining board members, there is an abundance of opportunity and positivity in 2022/2023.

As outgoing President, thus I will be Past President for 2022/2023, I sincerely, sincerely encourage all of you to consider being an IHLA Board Member. Responsibilities are to attend monthly meetings, work with our Coordinators for PD Sessions, Mother Language Day/Book, and look forward to exciting milestones for IHLA's Mother Language Day and Book!

If you have any questions regarding being on the IHLA Board, do not hesitate to contact me at edmontonihla@gmail.com .

Antonella Cortese

~Mother Language Day 2022 Event ~

19th Annual Mother Language Day Celebration – A short review

By Marina Castro



Every year IHLA looks forward to celebrating one of the most important heritage language events. This year, we were fortunate to host our 19th Annual Mother Language Day Event online, and even though the pandemic made it challenging for many of us to hold classes in person and enjoy the company of our students and co-workers, our member schools have done a fantastic job showcasing their students' work through videos.

This year's theme was 'How does learning my heritage language help me

grow?' This question brings many answers to how we behave and carry ourselves in our daily lives. It helps us understand our identity and how our traits and habits play such an important part. It awakes our sense of pride and belonging; it makes us reflect about how we use our heritage language in our daily lives and the impact it has on our children.

This year's Mother Language Day Celebration video demonstrated how we carry our heritage dearly in our hearts. Students have beautifully displayed their skills through song, dance, poetry, storytelling, yoga, instrument playing and of course, talking about their heritage language. All fifteen participating schools have succeeded in order to provide videos to create a show with great variety. If you wish to view our video, please visit our website [International Mother Language Day, Unesco - Edmonton, Alberta \(ihla.ca\)](https://www.ihla.ca).

Well done to all our brave students who have proved to not be shy in front of the camera; and to our teachers for putting it together. The video premiered online on Sunday, February 20th at 10:00 am, and was received with a lot of enthusiasm. The same day as the premiere, and of course the following, we celebrated Family Day in Canada. This celebration is special in our heart not only because we gather with our families and recognize the importance that family plays, but also our ancestry and heritage.

Congratulations for a wonderful showcase of 2021 Mother Language Day celebration!

~News from our schools – help and solidarity for Ukraine~

News from the Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies



By Lilya Sukhy, Principal

Students Helping Ukraine



On March 12, 2022 students of Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies made necklaces to raise funds for the Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine.

These necklaces a piece of Ukrainian traditional wear. They are made of malachite, which is a green copper carbonate mineral, a semi-precious stone.

For centuries, it has been believed that malachite represents transformation and positive change. For ages, people trusted malachite to be a stone with healing powers. Many still consider the stone to act as a protective gem.



Our students and teachers believe that together we can help make positive change, protect Ukraine, and assist in her healing.

The necklaces are sold for \$50 each. So far, we already raised \$2000.00 and are still selling them. Please let us know if you would like to order one to support Ukrainian people at this difficult time and to give it as a gift to your loved ones. Please place your order by emailing Lsukhy@hotmail.com.

We thank you for your support.



News from the Slovak Heritage School

By Nina Paulovicova, Principal



Resilience
Embracing cultural heritage and language

- Interaction, conversation & reading in HL
- singing traditional songs
- cooking traditional meals
- watching movies in HL
- listening to lectures in HL
- letters and postcards to grandmothers in mother countries
- role of Mothers

Slovak Heritage School continues its online classes for preschool – K12. We welcomed a new teacher Miss Lujza Haláková from Bratislava and had the first class with her on Sunday, March 27. Since March is the month when we celebrate books, our class was rich in a discussion about popular Slovak authors and their work.

LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Dr. Nina Paulovicova gave a guest lecture in Professor Martin Guardado's class LING 499/599 at U of A. In her guest lecture, she shared her journey of opening the Slovak Heritage Language School and included research data and reflected on the journey of IHLA heritage language schools during the COVID-19 pandemic

In the light of the ongoing horrid war in Ukraine, Slovak Heritage School was sharing important information about the possibilities for Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia. We donated masks, medical supplies, pain killers for adults and children to Ukrainian National Front and we delivered blankets, kids' clothing, oral hygiene products, diapers, and other supplies to Polish Hall in Edmonton. The Polish Hall in Edmonton opened the doors to receive donations for Ukraine at 2:00 pm on Monday 21st. When I arrived at 2:15 the first U-Hall truck was already full. Some elderly men and women from the Polish community were helping to organize the donations into piles, others were loading the truck. The warmth and kindness of these folks brought filled our hearts. The collected donations could be delivered to the victims of Putin's criminal war thanks to the humanitarian help of Polish Airlines who donated a Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Shell Canada which donated 50 tons of jet fuel to tank the plane. Donations from the Edmonton community were generous: Alberta firefighters and municipalities donated

emergency equipment and pharmaceutical companies are donating medications and heritage language schools' communities donated items from the required list.





News from St. Philip Elementary School

By Sofia Gallo – Bubula, Teacher

March has been a busy month at St. Philip Elementary School!

St. Philip School celebrated the beginning of Lent with a “Carnevale”!!! As one important stage of our Catholic religion ended another has begun. March 1, 2022 was Shrove Tuesday, the day that marks Jesus’ departure into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. It is a



time for all of us to change our hearts and to prepare for lent. Having a “Carnevale” allowed the students and staff of St. Philip School to have an authentic experience. Students enjoyed the afternoon by completing many activities such as, mask making, gelato tasting, games, tattoos, decorating a cookie and a pasta lunch! This day will always be remembered by everyone who participated. It was the beginning of changing our hearts.

Students of St. Philip wanted to express their concern and prayers for the people of Ukraine. They raised \$1500 by selling cookies to family and friends. Each class made a beautiful poster sharing their thoughts and hopes for the future of Ukraine. Every student was given a blue or yellow piece of ribbon. As a school we all went out to tie the ribbons and posters we made along the fences that surround our school. We are hoping to bring some peace in our hearts and hopefully soon to the world.



News from the Czech Heritage Language Society of Edmonton

By Jitka Storoschuk, Principal



Bake sale fundraiser for Ukraine children



The Czech Heritage Language Society of Edmonton is very concerned about the invasion of Ukraine by Russian President Putin and the resulting tensions throughout Europe and the world. Czechs empathize with the situation of Ukrainians, as the Czech Republic, together with many Central and Eastern European countries, was occupied by the Soviet Union in the past.

We share this collective heritage and

outwardly condemn this invasion. We rejoice in the global outrage and condemnation of this invasion. The world has come together in their expression of solidarity with the Ukrainian people, supporting them spiritually and financially. We applaud Ukrainian's brave leadership and their unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy. We pray for a quick end to this conflict, and for a reinstatement of peace. Slava Ukraini!

We posted this statement on our website blog and Facebook page after war in Ukraine started. But we wanted to do something more than just put our frustration and sadness in words. We wanted to express our solidarity through action.

There are some talented bakers and cooks among moms of our students so the idea of organizing a Bake sale fundraiser soon materialized. We baked traditional Czech sourdough bread, Czech rohlíky (typical Czech soft buns in a shape of small baguette), sweet buns with poppy seeds and cookies. We also wanted to offer something from traditional Ukrainian cuisine, so we made popular bortsch for sale.

This fundraising event was a big success. Everything was purchased by parents and friends of our Czech school, and we raised \$458.00 (438 dollars on the spot, 20 dollars was donated later). Thank you! The collected amount was sent to help Ukrainian children and families through children's charity UNICEF. [Send Help to Children in Ukraine | UNICEF Canada](#).

We chose UNICEF because we wanted to support children and because this is a trustful organization with long history. Also, if you donate to UNICEF, an anonymous donor will match your donation.

As there was a big positive respond to this Bake sale fundraiser, we plan to organize another one in the future and collect more money for the Ukraine crisis.

We stand with you and your people, Ukraine!

News from Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School



By Krystyna Dembowski, Principal

April 25th is a special day in the Polish Christian Community because on this day, we entrust homeland to the Mother of God. In the present situation, while the war is taking place, the Polish society has decided to make a joint act of entrusting not only Poland but also the countries involved in that incomprehensible war: Ukraine and Russia. On Friday evening (April 25th), we gathered in the Polish Holy Rosary Church and prayed together for the peace in Europe.

1. At the beginning, we admitted to all evil that had overtaken the world:

“We have strayed from that path of peace.

We have forgotten the lesson learned from tragedies of last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples’ dreams of peace and hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought

only of our nations and their interest, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour’s keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and our sins we broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grow indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!”



2. In the second part we prayed to Holy Mother:

*do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war,

*inspire projects and paths of reconciliation,

* restore God’s peace to the world,

*eliminate hatred and thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness,

*free us from war, protect our world from menace of nuclear weapons,

*make us realize our need to pray and love,

*show people the path of fraternity,

* obtain peace for our world

3. We concluded our prayers with the following words:

“Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourself, the Church and the humanity, especially Ukraine and Russia. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end, and peace spread throughout the world. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world”.

~How you can continue to help~

Hope Love Restoration Unity

Please visit the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for the latest updates regarding help needed in the Ukraine, news, and other matters in relation to the crisis.

[Home - The Ukrainian Canadian Congress \(UCC\) official website](#)

~Follow us on social media~



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

CONGRATULATIONS

The Filipino Language and Culture School staff and students won awards from the HIYAS (Gem) Awards



L-

R: Lito Velasco, Grace Alarcon-Isla, Gemikalyn Isla, Cecilia Macalintal, Zaidrian Isla; Missing: Thelma Araja

The **Hiyas (Gem) Award** was established (1996) by the Karilagan Dance Society to recognize deserving Filipino Canadians for their achievements and contributions to the Filipino community in Edmonton (and Alberta). During the 25th Hiyas (Gem) Awards on March 19, 2022, the Filipino Language and Culture Staff and students (under the umbrella of the Filipino Canadian Saranay Association of Alberta) were selected and received awards in the following categories:

Excellence in Education - Grace Alarcon-Isla (Elementary Teacher/program manager)

Excellence in Fine Arts – Zaidrian Isla (Junior High student)

Excellence in Community Service for Youth – Gemikalyn Isla (Senior High student)

Excellence in Community Service for Senior Citizen – Thelma Araja (Saranay/School Music Director)

Excellence in Community Service for Adults – Cecilia Macalintal (Youth Music Director)

Excellence in Communication Arts – Lito Velasco (High school teacher)

The Filipino Language and Culture School of Edmonton congratulate our staff and student awardees.

Another Great Success from Accredited Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School

My name is Sylvia Pozorek, I am a Grade 5 teacher at Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School. While working with Zuzia for the past couple of years, I have recognized her strong passion for learning and embracing Polish language and culture. Alongside many



others, I could not be more proud of her and what she has achieved thus far. All her hard work and effort is paying off and I believe it is just the beginning for her.

The future is bright for this young student and I am confident that her academic efforts will bring her many, many more opportunities for success.

This is the information I have received from our wonderful principal, Krystyna Dembowska regarding her latest achievement:

*I have received information after the end of the second stage of the **recitation competition "Słowem – Polska"**, organized by the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland under the patronage of the Wife of the President of the Republic of Poland: - The competition committee attended by representatives of: the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Center for the Development of Polish Education Abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Education Congress of Polonia, the Association "Wspólnota Polska" and the Foundation "Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie" qualified Zuzanna Zubik - a fifth grade student from our school, advanced to the next stage of the competition, in the 10 - 13 age category! Zuzia recited a poem by Bolesław Leśmian entitled "Urszula Kochanowska". Fifty-eight people from thirty-one countries, in the 10 - 13 years category, qualified for the third stage of this prestigious competition. Apart from Zuzia, Emilia Punteriero will be representing Canada in the competition.*

Furthermore, I would like to inform that in total, one hundred and fifty-five individuals have qualified for next (i.e., third) stage of this international recitation competition for Polish students from abroad; fifty-eight people in the 7 - 9 age category, fifty-eight people in the 10 - 13 age category, thirty-nine people in the 14 - 19 age category.

We are very proud of our student's achievements and sincerely congratulate her and wish her further success in the next stages of the competition.

To conclude... We are celebrating Zuzia's success, as she works hard towards learning the next poem. We are keeping our fingers crossed for you!

~Upcoming IHLA Professional Development~

**** Please make sure to register for workshops so that you are able to have access to that PD session****

Register

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



Wednesday, April 6 – 6:30 – 8:30 pm (Online)

How do you move beyond pen and paper activities in your classes? Do you want them 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.

2. Get outside and Play Part 2 – hosted by Emma Ausford



Monday, April 11 – 6:30 – 8:30pm IN PERSON

Emma Ausford, M.A., B.Sc.

Environmental Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Fuse Consulting Ltd. With over 15 years of experience working at a variety of environmental education centres, Emma Ausford has a wealth of experience in connecting people to their natural world through fun, engaging, and innovative programming. With a deep love of the outdoors, Emma has focused her career on making science and the environment more accessible and engaging for children. Currently working as an Education Consultant, Emma previously coordinated the award-winning environmental education program at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden for over 10 years, working with schools and families to make science education fun and spark a love of the natural world in kids and adults alike!

Emma has an M.A. in Environmental Education and Communication from Royal Roads University, a B.Sc. in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the University of Alberta, and an Advanced Certificate in Leadership with Honours from the University of Alberta.

Taking your students outdoors can lead to amazing and memorable experiences - for both the children AND teachers! In this hands-on evening of outdoor play, we will have the chance to talk about the simple steps you can take to ensure a successful (and fun!) program outside the classroom. The session will be chocked full of tips for a meaningful outdoor adventure with your students, as well as give you the chance to try-out plenty of games and activities you can lead with kids of all ages. Activities will be geared towards outdoor learning of all types - whether you have access to a field, forest, or patch of pavement. Come ready to play and have some fun outside!

This PD will be held at Giovanni Caboto Park (95 St and 108A Ave). Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather. We will be outdoors for the majority of the PD. Please also bring a notepad and a pen / pencil. Registration for this PD will be open April 5, and a

separate email reminder will be sent out before the PD with further instructions and schedule for that day.

3. Language Resource Acquisition – hosted by Mila Philipzig



Wednesday, May 25 – 6:30 – 8:30 IN PERSON (TBC)

Mila Bongco-Philipzig is a writer and poet based in Edmonton, Alberta. She is a published author, including three bi-lingual children’s books (Filipino-English) and the translator of two children’s books (Filipino-German). Mila holds a PhD on Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. Her experience in language instruction includes teaching the Filipino and German languages to both children and adults. Mila is very active in the Edmonton community, organizing events mainly focused on Inclusion and Diversity. She has two new children’s books coming out this May 2022.

Mila will be discussing ideas on acquiring and creating resources for teaching a heritage language, as well as providing a detailed overview of the process to produce an illustrated children’s book, from concept to production.

~ CAREER DEVELOPMENT ~

Education Assistant Diploma

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Do you like making meaningful differences in children’s lives by touching their lives? Are you interested in working with exceptional learners? Then education assistant profession is just for you. Educational Assistants are valued members of the school team. Educational assistants are assigned to assist with programming for students who have been identified as having exceptional educational needs under the Education Act. Working under the principal, with the guidance of the School Based Team and classroom teacher in consultation with Special Programs Consultants, Educational Assistants assist classroom teachers in the implementation of Individualized Education Plans.

Education is the real path of a bright future and a good life because good education gives us the knowledge and understanding of life. It is because of this reason that Glenbow College prepares you for the diverse needs of exceptional learners by providing “both theoretical and practical education”. Glenbow College provides you “updated knowledge” by academic experienced instructors and at the same time enables you “hands on learning” with a practical approach.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Education Assistant (EA) diploma program at Glenbow College has two tiers, theoretical and practical education. Students at EA program will start with schooling history in Alberta. Then IT literacy module comes for learning the fundamentals of IT tools and software needed for education. To enable our students with high accuracy in their future profession, Glenbow College provides Effective Communication Skills module. The rest of the program is as follows: Positive Behaviour Support; Crisis Prevention and Intervention; Classroom

Management; Children and Their Development; Language and Self Development in Children; Teaching Students with Special Needs; Tech Tools for Students with Learning Disabilities; Observation-Field Trip; Readiness for Career; First Aid/CPR; Practicum

PROGRAM DURATION

Theory on site 540 hours.
Practice at workplace (Co-op Work Experience) 180 hours

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Education Assistant Program at Glenbow College is licensed under the Private Career Colleges Branch of Alberta Advanced Education. Find out more by visiting the [Private career colleges | Alberta.ca](#).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

An Alberta Secondary School Diploma or equivalent (supported by transcript) *; or be at least 18 years of age or older and pass an entry test

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The graduates have lots of opportunities of employment in public, private, independent schools and education/teaching settings such as: early intervention programs; kindergarten to grade 12 all schools; after-school programs; post-secondary schools; childcare centres; summer camps and day programs; home-schooling environments; parent link centres, native liaison or other social services in which educational programs are offered and more!

GLENBOW COLLEGE DIFFERENCE

Education assistant program is a high in demand program because the need for education assistants increases day by day due to the rise in students with exceptionalities. While studying your major diploma program at Glenbow College, accelerate or expand your career with an extra certificate in Non-Violent Crises Intervention Program which will be a great asset for you. Glenbow College gives you an opportunity to study a certificate program directly related to your career in the future. Don't settle for less while you have more at Glenbow College. International practicum*opportunity for new beginnings and endless possibilities is waiting for you at Glenbow College. Book an information session to learn the unique opportunities and different schedule options waiting for you at Glenbow College.

Student Aid

To find out more about this program's eligibility for student aid please visit [Education Assistant - Glenbow College: Post-Secondary Programs in Alberta - alis](#).

~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](#)

~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.