

THE IHLA NEWSLETTER

Dear Esteemed Member Schools and Friends of IHLA, First and foremost, on behalf of the IHLA Board, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer time with friends, family, and heritage language community members!

The IHLA Year 2022/2023 has been full of wonderful milestones such as its 20th Anniversary of celebrating Mother Language Day to its feature on the internationally known podcast, "It's About Language". We also welcomed our HL community together, in person for its MLD celebration since March 2020 with over 700 people!

**VOLUME 20
ISSUE 3
EDITOR: MARINA
CASTRO**

May 31, 2023

Above all, THANK YOU all who make IHLA the vibrant and incredible organization as it makes its way to 50 Years!

From the first Professional Development session in October 2022 to the Annual General Meeting held just a few weeks ago, your presence and active participation is priceless and appreciated.

more than you will ever know. It is for this reason, among many others, that IHLA moves forward.

always growing and remaining a united collective of individuals with like-minded ideas and ideals together, creating a positive, appreciative and professional organization for heritage language learning and cultures.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for being a part of my learning journey in my role as IHLA Board Member since 2010 and as IHLA President since 2015. I have and have had the pleasure and honour of working with you all who have taught me many things that I carry with me always in my professional teaching and administration of my heritage school everyday.

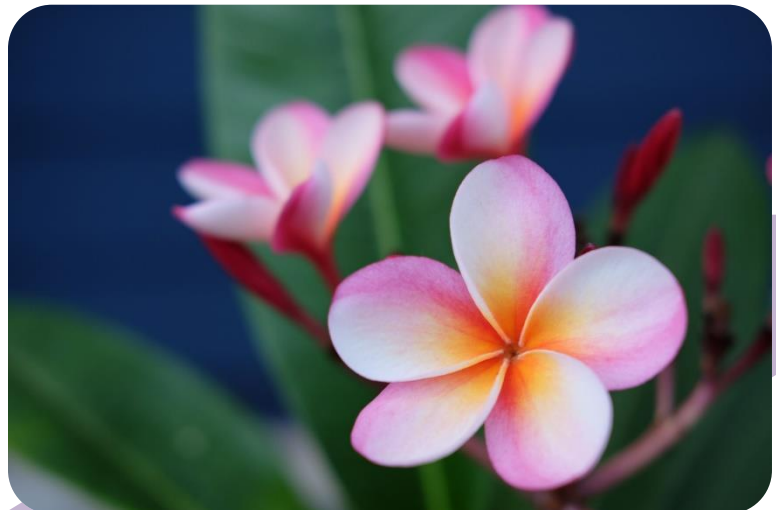


I look forward continuing the good work that IHLA does with its new IHLA Board Members and Executive as it plans new, engaging and informative workshops for Teachers and Administrators and develops new opportunities for our HL schools, and membership. My hope is that we continue to strengthen our relationships amongst our HL Schools and our government liaisons, recognizing the importance and necessity of supporting Heritage Languages Education in Alberta. I look forward to working with everyone on the IHLA Board and all Member Schools in my new role as Past President supporting Mr. Krishna Gupta as new IHLA President.

*His good counsel, even tempered and thoughtful manner is a perfect match to the new IHLA Board alongside IHLA's dedicated and hardworking Coordinators, Ms. Grace Alarcon-Isla and Ms. Marina Castro. There are no words to express how thankful I am for their support during my tenure and I know their dedication to IHLA will continue to be steadfast, always. Again, my thanks to you all for your support during my time as IHLA President.
Sincerely,*

Antonella Cortese

Antonella Cortese



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS



JUMPING INTO SPRING H. SIENKIEWICZ POLISH SCHOOL



Sylvia Pozorek - Grade 5 Teacher

Celebrating our Awesome Parents at
H. Sienkiewicz Polish

School



Happy, happy, happy!

On May 13th, parents were invited to the classroom to celebrate International Day of Families. During their time there, moms and dads enjoyed their time painting together with their child and practiced their language skills though fun and nostalgic games! Many parents' favorite activity was the geography corner - where parents could show and share which part of Poland they come from. The event was a big hit and great bonding experience for all.

May 3rd is a very special day for all Poles. It commemorates Poland's Constitution Day, a national holiday that celebrates the declaration of the Constitution of May 3, 1791 - the first modern constitution in Europe! The Constitution keeps Polish spirit alive as a symbol of freedom generating pride among people of Polish ancestry everywhere. Students made a Polish crowned eagle, one of Poland's most important national symbols, to share this bit of history with their family and f

May 3rd, 2023



Poland's Constitution Day





Celebrating May 3rd - Polish Constitution Day With the Community



The celebration included a joint artistic program of students from Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School, most of which dually represented members of the Piast Polish Folk dance group and Polish Scouts - Szczep Beskidy and Hufiec Pomorze. The wonderful dances, songs and recitation of poems was one of the biggest highlights of the evening. The teachers from the school's art club took an active role in the event, which included Monika Jurkiewicz, who shared information about our school and introduced students' acts, as well as Sylvia Pozorek, who was a Master of Ceremonies for the event. The centerpiece at the podium was a collaborative, whole-school initiative. Poland's national symbol - the White Crowned Eagle was created using the palms of each individual student and staff member from the school. A big thanks to the school's kind Kindergarten teacher, Alicja Pozorek, who helped in the assembly and construction of the display.

Written by Sylvia Pozorek, photos provided by Barbara Naletlich





Spring Updates in Grade 1 at H. Sienkiewicz Polish School

Celebrating Earth Day

On April 22, our first grade class celebrated Earth Day at school. The kids were enthusiastic about ways to save our planet, and came up with different ideas to help out! Ranging from recycling old milk jugs to repurposing an old pair of denim jeans to make shorts, they had lots of fun exploring helpful solutions, and even more



Mother's and Father's Day

On May 14, the grade ones got to invite their parents to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. They got to appreciate all the hard work that their parents do for them so they can attend our lovely school. Truly a special and heartwarming event for all who came.



Written by Joanna &
Diana Deomic

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

(Polish Children's Theatre of Edmonton)

Nazywam się Natlia Mahinay i jestem częścią Polskiego teatru "Braci Grimm" (Polish Canada Children's Theater Society in Edmonton). Polski teatr pomógł mi zmienić kim jestem dzisiaj, ponieważ zanim zostałam częścią teatru, stresowałam się często, nie chciałam być sądzona jeśli zrobię coś nie tak. Wycofywałam się z zajęć i ludzi; unikałam, co mogłoby zostać osądzone lub zmierzone z innymi ludźmi. Będąc teraz częścią teatru, czuję się swobodnie przemawiając przed publicznością. Nie stresuję się i lubię przebywać z ludźmi. Moje doświadczenie teatralne pomogło mi poczuć się bardziej gotową do pójścia do szkoły średniej, ponieważ czuję się bardziej pewna siebie i mam mniej strachu i niepokoju. Czuję, że mogę zyskać więcej możliwości i brać udział w większej liczbie zajęć ponieważ mam zaufanie do siebie, z powodu bycia częścią Polskiego teatru.

(Violetta Stryjaki - Principal)



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

(St Philip – Italian Language and Culture Program)

St. Philip school grades 3 - 6 came together to celebrate our Italian Journey! For our year end field trip, we celebrated mass together at Santa Maria Goretti Mass, then the students explored the Church with Father, played traditional card games and were able to view an Italian Museum. We shared a meal together. As our grade 6 students embark on a new adventure, we were fortunate to celebrate this day with them. The students receive a certificate of completion and are very proud!



Address from Linguapax International President, **Monica Pereña**,



I can only start this with one word: *Congratulations!* Congratulations on this *Twentieth Anniversary* which represents the consolidation of an extraordinary task of building ties, weaving complicities, and experiences, and developing materials and projects that have contributed decisively to the maintenance and development of the heritage languages of many and various communities in Canada.

This is not an easy task. It is well known that the abandonment of heritage languages, from the third generation onwards, occurs almost irreversibly despite the loss of wealth that this entails on both an individual and a collective level. And yet, International and Heritage Languages Association-IHLA, fighting for acknowledgment, accreditation and legitimacy of heritage language learners' skills in elementary and high school, and for development and recognition of heritage language teachers' backgrounds through credentialing and professionalization, has influenced educational policies and academic research. The consolidation of bilingual schools as part of the Canadian education system is an indisputable success. This has only been possible thanks to the unconditional and selfless effort of a group of volunteers in IHLA who have been able to turn their association into a space of learning, collective growth, cultural diversity, and into an engine capable of decisively influencing Canadian society.

All these factors plus the will to transmit the value of plurilingualism and the cultural wealth that each of the communities involved brings to Canadian youth, are clearly linked to Linguapax values and purposes. It is for this reason that the jury of the 2016 Linguapax International Award had no doubts when *awarding the International and Heritage Languages Association, IHLA for this recognition*; for its tireless work and for its successful contribution in the construction of a multicultural and multilingual Canada.

I can attest to that. When I visited Edmonton for the Linguapax Award ceremony, I had the opportunity to learn first-hand not only the work of the ILHA but also that of some communities. I was very favorably impressed.

The United Nations has declared the present decade the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. The goal is to reverse language shift, and reclaim communities' rights to speak their languages, with all the cognitive, educational, and even economic benefits, that stabilizing endangered or dormant languages have for the well-being of Indigenous people and societies in general. ILHA knows well that this doesn't only go for Indigenous or endangered languages; this is also a need and a right for all heritage language speakers in multilingual societies.

I therefore reiterate my congratulations to all the people who make possible the existence, work and achievements of the ILHA. And I encourage you to continue working towards this important and rewarding goal which has very positive consequences for local communities and which also has a global dimension: the commitment with our planet and its inhabitants to continue to be different and diverse and live together in peace.

Sincerest Congratulations on this milestone,

Monica Pereña, President

[IHLA IN THE MEDIA](#)

Please check our website [Media | International and Heritage Languages Association \(ihla.ca\)](#) to listen to this wonderful podcast series hosted by Norah Jones, featuring our heritage language schools' students, teachers, and guests of IHLA.

Episode 97 - Children celebrate their heritage



We can't help keeping on celebrating Mother Language Day's 20th anniversary with the young people and their teachers, parents, and guides! We heard three powerful young voices in [Episode 96](#), and got a great overview and history with Antonella Cortese of the [International Heritage Language Association \(IHLA\)](#) and herself a founder and director of an Italian heritage language and cultural school.

LISTEN TO THIS EPISODE

Episode 96 - Young Voices from Mother Language Day



Let's follow up Episode 95 in Edmonton, Alberta for Mother Language Day with Antonella Cortese, IHLA, and the many heritage schools coming together with some voices and presentations of the youth participants themselves.

LISTEN TO THIS EPISODE

Episode 95 - Celebrating Our Languages: Antonella Cortese & IHLA



This week's guest, Antonella Cortese, speaks with Norah Jones about the international celebration of Mother Language Day, and the power of heritage language and culture to celebrate both individual identity and global diversity - with joy.

LISTEN TO THIS EPISODE

EPISODE LISTEN TO THIS

school
listen to this episode and enjoy the
podcast a podcast and podcast of the
podcast a podcast and podcast of the

EPISODE LISTEN TO THIS

EPISODE LISTEN TO THIS

[K-DAYS OPPORTUNITY & MEDIA FEATURING](#)

The Explore Edmonton group is setting up contracts for all participating schools. Your school had an interest in increasing their visibility in a public setting so we are following up to see if you can fill some empty spaces in our events.

There are three areas of interest that have been offered to the IHLA heritage schools:

1. Kid Facade

Dates: July 21-30, 2023

Location: Edmonton EXPO Centre – Hall C (Kids/Agriculture Zone)

Activation Space: 20'x 20' kids storefront building set façade – secure storage space available. Space is complimentary by Explore Edmonton

Target Age group: 3 – 10 years old

Budget: cover material costs of up to \$150/shift

Hall Operating Hours: 12:00pm – 9:00pm.

Volunteer shifts required per school: minimum 5 hrs/school including 20 min set up/cleanup/takedown.

We still have available shifts that can be used:

First shift: 11:45am start (July 27 & 28) and Second Shift: 4:15pm start (July 21,22,23,25,26,27,28)

of volunteers per facade: recommendation of 2 – 3 volunteers for each 5hr shift at the facade. Volunteers can be 16+yrs of age but 1 person in each shift must be an adult (18+yrs). **How many do you have as volunteers?**

Each volunteer will receive 1 complimentary entrance ticket, food voucher of up to \$10, and a chance to win a RAD pass.

Each group/school will receive 2 parking pass, complimentary rental of space and up to \$150 reimbursement for materials.

Activity Time frame: max of 15 min of engaging activity; individual or group.



Activity: **please specify**

2. Performances on the Kidzone Main stage:

Kids-zone main stage

July 30, 2023.

4:30pm to 8pm

Each performing group will have 3 complimentary parking passes, backstage dressing area;

Each performer will get 1 complimentary entrance pass.

We still have available spaces for 15 min and 30 min time slots

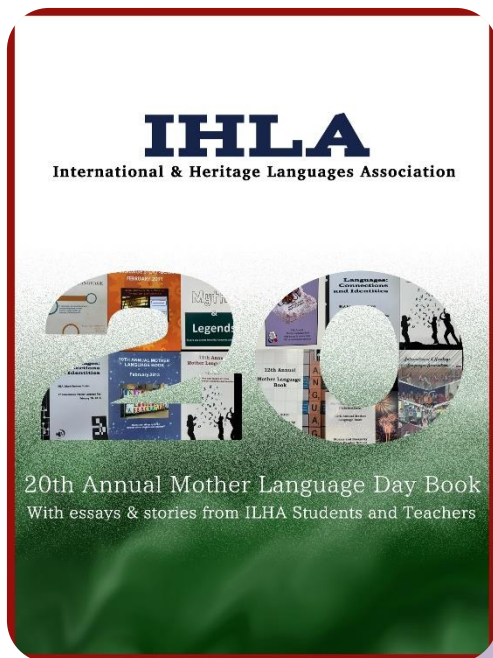
3. Monday Morning Magic

Monday Morning Magic is the special time when children between the ages of **three and 12** are invited to enjoy the fair at their own speed. MMM is on July 24, 2023, 9am to noon. You can either go as a school group or one parent can take their own children.

Please specify number of children and adults participating.

Please have this information to me by Friday May 26 so I can send the information to Explore Edmonton to do up the contract.

EMAIL: coordinator@ihla.ca – Grace Alarcon - Isla



Mother Language Day book

- *Distribution of books by June 19, 2023*
- *PDF copy will be launched on the website after June 20, 2023*



~ Professional
Development 2022-2023
and important dates ~

*(Please check our website
www.ihla.ca for updates as
well as our Facebook page)*

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

Upcoming Professional Development (2023 / 2024)

We are looking at increasing the in-person professional development for the next year:

- Alberta education - Locally developed curriculum
- Upcoming research lecture- based
- Creative art in the heritage language classroom
- First Aid
- Teaching students with learning disabilities in a culturally diverse classroom
- Interactive play in the classroom

Dates and times will be announced at a later date. Please check our website and Facebook page for more details.

2023 - 2024 IHLA EXECUTIVE Board of Directors



IHLA AGM 2023

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED OUR 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS!

PRESIDENT: KRISHNA GUPTA (ALBERTA HINDI PARISHAD)

PAST PRESIDENT: ANTONELLA CORTESE (COMITATO PROMOTORE DELLA LINGUA ITALIANA)

VICE PRESIDENT: FRANCIS WAMBUGU (KISWAHILI LEARNING CENTRE)

TREASURER: ANUPAMA DESHPANDE (EDMONTON MARATHI)

SECRETARIES: SYLVIA POZOREK (HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ) & **JITKA STOROSCHUK** (CZECH SCHOOL IN EDMONTON)

MEMBERS AT LARGE: LILYA SUKHI (IVAN FRANKO SCHOOL OF UKRANIAN STUDIES)

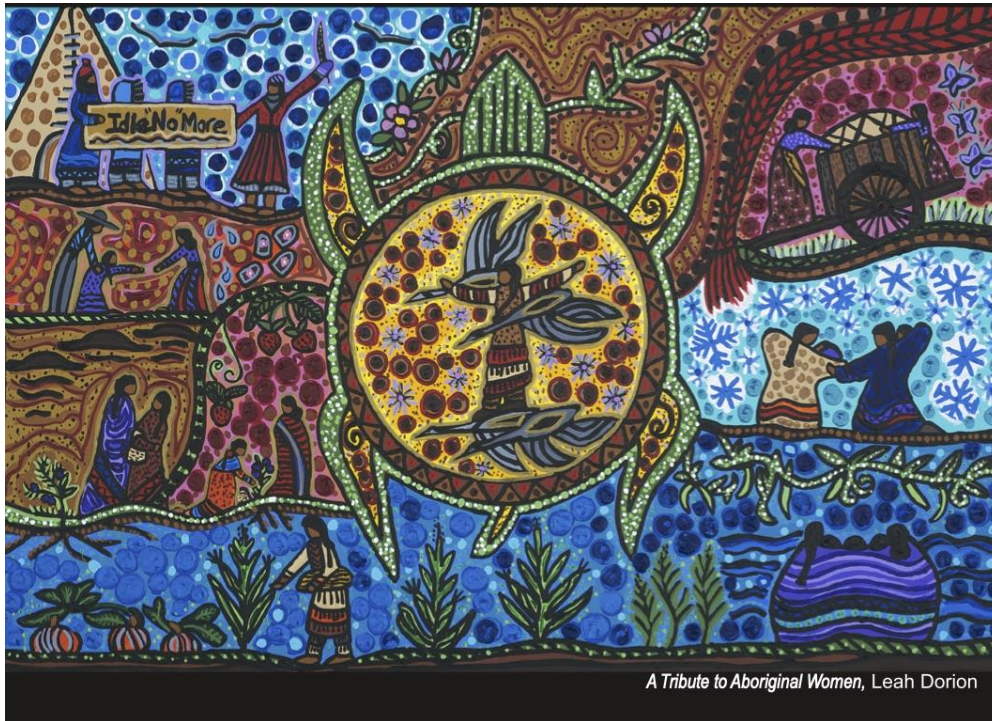
KULJEET KAUR (RAMGARHIA KHALSA SCHOOL)

ARCHANA GAUTAM KUMAR (ALBERTA HINDI PARISHAD)

PAYLIG OLTADJIAN (ARMENIAN CULTURE AND EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDMONTON)

EMERITUS MEMBERS: JOSEPHINE PALLARD,
KRYSTYNA DEMBOWSKI, AND
JASPAL BASAL

~Free Indigenous Courses at University of Alberta~



Subtitles: Arabic, French,
Portuguese (European),
Italian, Vietnamese,
German, Russian, English,
Spanish

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.

[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.*

~Follow us on social media~

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



International Heritage Language Association @edmontonihla

Website:

www.ihla.ca

Contact:

780 – 760 0700

Grace Alarcon – Isla (Program Coordinator)

coordinator@ihla.ca

