

The IHLA Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 1 Editor: Matthew Zorzetto-Vermeire

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of IHLA,

It gives me pleasure to greet you all and more so, to have seen 26 of our IHLA Schools represented at our First Principals Meeting in September to start the new IHLA 2021/2022 Year.

First and foremost, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Nina Paulovicova for having taken on the role of President in 2020/2021 and the IHLA Board for having worked with her in my absence, I will never be able to thank her enough and the Board. Also, we said good-bye to Trudie Aberdeen who was IHLA Coordinator from November 2016 to August 2021. She was offered and accepted a permanent teaching position outside Edmonton and we wish her and her family the very best on this new adventure. We also want to welcome Seyed Bahmani (Iranian School of Edmonton) to the IHLA Board and look forward to our membership taking part to continue to help IHLA grow, evolve and bring new ideas to the organization.

This year we welcome Matthew Zorzetto-Vermeire as IHLA's new IT Coordinator! This position and role was borne out of the new opportunities that this incredible 18 months has provided. Matthew is a great addition to IHLA and as you all know, we look forward to the presenting you all to a new IHLA Coordinator once candidates have been selected. As you have been informed, the position of IHLA Coordinator has changed as this last year afforded us the chance to re-assess roles and responsibilities. This said, the position of IHLA Coordinator will be a part-time position with room to grow as role necessitates. Above all, we encourage our membership to consider this role and seek out those who you all feel would be a good fit. The successful candidate would work with the IT Coordinator and IHLA Board.

As we make our way into this new IHLA Year, we have already had our first Teacher and Principal PD Sessions in September and look forward to more to come in the months ahead, alongside IHLA's 18th Mother Language Day and 43rd IHLA Year!

On behalf of the IHLA Board, we look forward to seeing you all online (and hopefully soon in person! And want to remind you all, as we continue to learn from each other, our students and heritage language communities continue to grow the stronger we work together.

Respectfully,

Antonella Cortese, IHLA President



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Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC) welcomes IHLA!



The Edmonton Intercultural Centre (EIC) would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest tenant-partner, IHLA, who moved into their new office and classroom space here in the old McCauley School Building at 9538-107 Ave on August 1, 2021.

EIC is supported by the City of Edmonton and governed by a board of directors. It is home to non-profit organizations sharing a similar mandate or vision of intercultural sharing and learning, equity and diversity, and anti-racism. The vision of EIC is to create a centre for learning, research, recreation, and the arts that reflects and capitalizes on the rich diversity in the McCauley community and the City of Edmonton.

With IHLA, we now house 11 organizations in the building. These are: Creating Hope Society, Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, Intercultural Child and Family Centre, Multicultural Family Resource Society, Centre for Race and Culture, Changing Together, The Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (The Africa Centre), Edmonton Multicultural Coalition, Chinese Cultural Promotion Society, Filipino Canadian Saranay Association of Alberta, and International and Heritage Languages Association. In addition, EIC rents the gym and other spaces to 200 external user groups from the community and in 2019, prior to the pandemic, saw 80,000 people walk through its doors in one year.

EIC understands the key role language has in reflecting, defining, and preserving the diverse cultural richness we cherish in our community. The work of IHLA in teaching international and heritage languages adds a valuable component to our mosaic of like-minded organizations.

Welcome to our intercultural space! We look forward to learning more about you and helping you connect with your neighbors in this work, and in this building.

Sincerely,

Judy Sillito, Board President

Mother Language Day Book 2022!

By: Matthew Zorzetto-Vermeire

The final vote has been called! The theme for Mother Lanugage Day 2022 is.....
"How does learning a language help me grow".

What an interesting question – I am impressed of who thought of this. Because I had to stop and think; and realized, I have never been asked this question.

For me personally, learning my heritage language was a slow process. And reflecting back from my first Italian word "cervo – deer" I remember learning at maybe 4 years old. To becoming an Italian instructor for almost 6 years; I have come a long way.

Though Italian is not my mother tongue, putting in the effort to learn the language has helped me grow in ways such as: gaining patience; overcoming mistakes faster; becoming a better communicator; getting closer to my Nonni (grandparents); gaining another lens to view the world; and many other ways. When we start to ask our students of all ages what does this question mean to them, they will probably have different answers than me. Because what is grown from learning a language is personal for everybody.

A child might say they can make friends easier; an adult might say it helps improve there job skills; a high school student might feel they are growing their confidence; while somebody might feel they have grown their self esteem by reclaiming their language.

With so many ways to grow, IHLA looks forward to all the stories our members want to have published in our 2022 Mother Language Day Book! If you have any further questions, please email me at itcoordinatorihla@gmail.com

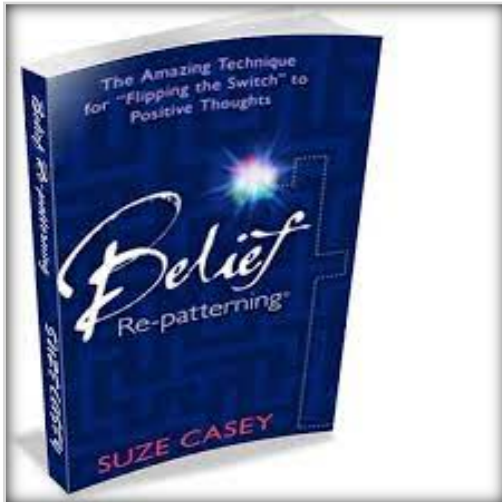
Past IHLA Professional Development Sessions

Making our Way Inspired and Motivated

September 29, 2021

Eliana Aloisio (BA, BEd) Instructor at Comitato Promotore della Lingua Italiana School

Kathryn Babowal (BA, BEd) Owner and Teacher at Les Petits Soleils^{inc.} School



It has now been almost a year and a half since all of our heritage language schools have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple changes, lockdowns, precautions and sense of uncertainty has left many of our educators feeling helpless, worried for the future and exhausted. Since this has been a recognized feeling by many, to start off our new school year Eliana Aloisio and Kathryn Babowal offered a wonderful PD session all about how we can recognize our own personal power and focus on what we can control, rather than focusing on what is out of control.

Kathryn and Eliana have both been educators for many years and share a common value of empowering students and professional development. These two colleagues met through the professional development course of *Belief Re-patterning*[™] developed and shared by educator Suze Casey from Airdrie, Alberta. Suze's teachings centre around the power of positive self talk and how making it a habit makes emotional regulation an easier task. During this PD session, Kathryn and Eliana who are both practioneers of Suze's *Belief Re-patterning*[™] shared tips and tricks with attendees how we can empower our students through this habitual practice and how easy it is to put in a heritage language classroom setting. This was a truly uplifting PD session and it was just what our IHLA membership needed to start off the school year.

From this PD session, IHLA is excited to announce we have gained a new member school thanks to Eliana! With a warm welcome from IHLA's board we want to welcome Kathryn Babowal and her school Les Petits Soleils^{inc.} School French Preschool to our membership. Les Petits Soleils is located in Sherwood Park, Alberta and has been in operation since 2006 and keeps growing. We look forward to having Kathryn's enthusiasm and expertise on board. For further information about Les Petits Soleils^{inc.} School French Preschool and Suze Casey's *Belief Re-patterning*[™] please visit their websites below

<http://petits-soleils.ca/>

<https://beliefrestructuring.com/history/>

Raising Multi-lingual Children: A Selection of Research Based Insights

October 26, 2021

Dr. Martin Guardado from Department of Linguistics of the University of Alberta

ARE YOU A PARENT FROM A MIXED-LANGUAGE FAMILY?



Participate in a one-hour Zoom interview and receive \$50 as compensation

Dr. Martin Guardado, a researcher at the University of Alberta, is conducting a study to understand the dynamics of mixed-language parents raising children in at least two other languages (besides English).



For details, please scan the QR Code or contact Silvia Bégin at sabegin@ualberta.ca

Project Director:
Martin Guardado, Ph.D.
Department of Linguistics



IHLA after a 4.5 year gap warmly welcomes back Dr. Martin Guardado from the University of Alberta to hold another PD session. Dr. Guardado's past PD session held in April 2017 "Fostering Engagement through Digital Tools in Heritage Language Community Schools" focused on how our schools can modernize ourselves and embrace the power of technology to grow our student's learning.

His newest PD session, though vastly different was just as useful for our Heritage Language teachers. Instead of focusing on the power of technology, he focused on the power of speaking a heritage language in and of itself. Martin's presentation debunked many common myths and stereotypes multi-lingual families face and proved with statistics and research that speaking more than one language as a child is not difficult nor does it affect negatively the child's performance in a dominate language school. From the board of IHLA, we thank Dr. Guardado for reinforcing that all of our

heritage language families are doing the right thing by teaching our languages to our children.

Currently, Martin and his team at the University of Alberta are studying how multi-lingual families preserve their languages at home and in the outside world. Since many of our IHLA families come from multi-lingual speaking families, IHLA highly encourages them to contact Martin and participate in his research study.

Alberta Teachers Association: The Power of Play—Engaging Learners of All Ages

October 27, 2021

Kathleen Silverman, BEd

IHLA is very grateful to have Alberta Teachers Association host a PD for us this year. Hosted by Kathleen Silverman and co-hosted by Lynn McEachern, this session focused on the benefits of using play in heritage language schools to improve and heighten learning. Kathleen debunked the myth that, “play is too frivolous for learning”, and showed that when used in a holistic way. Having play used alongside reading, writing, and speaking heightens the learning levels of all ages.

If you would like more information about this specific PD session, or any others from the Alberta Teachers Association go to their website.

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/Pages/Index.aspx>

News from IHLA Member Schools

NEWS! from *Nebula Academy* (Arabic, French, Turkish, Somali)

By: Fatih Sahin, Assistant Executive Director



Nebula Academy, established in 2014 is located in the Eastwood neighborhood and close to Edmonton's downtown core and its picturesque river valley. It has been delivering the highest standard of education for students from Kindergarten to Grade 9.

We know how significant it is for parents to know their children are being cared for in a safe, positive environment. Thus, this year, it is fortunately further sectioned into infant-toddler service under the care of experienced staff who have been carefully chosen for their kindness, professionalism, and passion for childcare in addition to K-9 classes.

The central aim of Nebula academy is the achievement of academic excellence and the development of moral and socially responsible students. We believe that bringing up knowledgeable and well-mannered individuals who will be able to participate as informed, active, caring contributing citizens in Canadian society is our first priority.

To develop well-rounded individuals, we are offering a range of extra-curricular activities including drama, debating, public speaking, table tennis, karate, soccer and basketball, and many more.



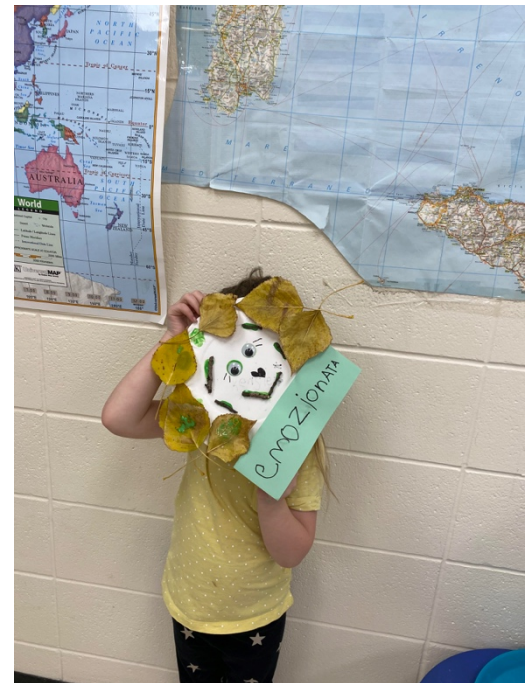
Furthermore, our professional olympiad instructors provide maths enrichment materials and select and train our students for participation in the International Mathematical competitions. As a result, the Nebula Academy Mathematics Olympiad team participated in the International Eduversal Mathematics Competition on March 20, 2021. The team was ranked 10th out of 53 participating countries. The team total was 100 out of a possible 200 points. Our student, Mine Kara, was awarded the bronze medal among thousands of participants.

NEWS! from *Comitato Promotore della Lingua Italiana School (Italian)*

By: Marina Castro, Instructor

Learning about Maria Montessori is exciting! This month, our studenti have incorporated 'emozioni' in their arts and crafts in order to showcase the various emotions that Maria Montessori experienced throughout her journey as a scholar.

We learned about 'contento'(content); 'felice'(happy); 'stanco' (tired); 'deluso'(dissapointed); 'sorpreso' (surprised); 'emozionato'(emotional); 'arrabbiato'(angry); 'triste' (sad); 'annoiato'(bored); 'stupito' (stunned) and many others. We all chose the emotion that we wanted to showcase and this is what we created!



NEWS! from Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School



University of Alberta Botanic Garden Fieldtrip

By: Bozena Gaciag, Grade 2 Teacher

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School continues to work on incorporating a variety of outdoor learning experiences into the school curriculum.

One of them is the annual fieldtrip to the University of Alberta Botanic Gardens. This year, the students from grade 2, 3, and 4 visited the garden to welcome the new season, Fall, and participate in educational activities.

It started as a crispy morning but soon progressed into a warm and sunny day, perfect for an observation of seasonal and weather changes. The children were mesmerized by the beauty of the garden and season; making discoveries with each step. They spotted a wasp nest in a tree, collected colorful leaves and talked about their colours, shapes, sizes and textures. They also found beehives and observed honey bees.

The Kurimoto Japanese Garden, as usual, was the highlight of the fieldtrip. The children spent plenty of time discovering colorful fish, looking at beautiful plants and trees, climbing rocks, admiring the waterfall, as well as visiting the viewing shelters.

The University Botanic Garden provided not only a meaningful educational experience but also an opportunity to move around, relax, and refresh all our senses.

All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, Polish Independence Day, and Remembrance Day

By: Bozena Gaciag, Grade 2 Teacher

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are celebrated in Poland on November 1st and 2nd. All Saints' Day is designated as the day to pray for the Saints of the Church. All Souls' Day is a day of prayer for all who have died. Most of the people visit cemeteries to lay flowers, light candles and pray for the souls of their loved ones. Remembrance Day and Polish Independence Day are celebrated on November 11th. In order to cultivate these traditions and holidays, the grade 2 students from Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School went to the Beechmount Cemetery. The students spent some time visiting graves, praying, and paying tribute to all those who fought and died in the line of duty to keep us safe.

Teacher's Day

By: Barbara Naletlich, Grade 6 Teacher

Teachers' Day in Poland is celebrated every year on October 14th. It is this day commemorating the anniversary of the establishment of the National Education Commission, which was established on the initiative of King Stanisław August Poniatowski and implemented by the Partition Parliament on October 14th, 1773.

Every year on October 14th schools and other educational institutions organize, among others: ceremonial academies, performances, as well as events to promote and commemorate this



day. Here in Canada, we also try to cultivate this tradition in our Polish Schools, therefore the day of Saturday October 16th at Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School in Edmonton was also different than usual. Students and their teachers finished their classes not at 12:30 but at 12:15. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the entire ceremony took place outside, in front of the Vanguard College building.

The Board of the Canadian Polish Language and Culture Parent Association prepared a surprise for our teachers. There was a marked area in front of the building - for the safety of children - and a large table covered with a blue tablecloth with the school emblem. There were also flowers on the table, individually wrapped cupcakes and gift cards to Starbucks. At the beginning, the principal of our school Krystyna Dembowska, together with the invited Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, presented some teachers with medals awarded by the Board of the Polish Teachers Association in Canada.

Teachers that received the Gold Badge of the Polish Teachers Association for 20 years of hard and exemplary work at the Polish School were: Monika Romanik, Anetta Malczewski-Dembowska, Iwona Zalewska-Yvoy and Sylwester Furtak. The Silver Badge of the Polish Teachers Association for 15 years of excellent work at the Polish School was awarded to: Bożena Gaciąg and Violetta Stryjski. The honorary Bronze Badge for work in Education for the Polish Community in Edmonton was also awarded to Helena Rybak – our school librarian. Next the school principal Krystyna Dembowska introduced every teacher from each grade. Then the teachers would come to the table, take a rose and a cupcake of their choice along with the Starbucks gift card. It was warm and sunny that day.

The parents who came to pick up their children also watched this beautiful celebration of our amazing teachers and their hard work. To all my fellow teachers, I salute you for your dedication and hard work!

Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser Till November 24th, 2021

By: Krystyna Dembowska, Principal

Dear PARENTS and FRIENDS of H. Sienkiewicz Polish School,

Please join us in this PURDY'S chocolate fundraiser. As you are probably aware, our school was on the brink of closure this year due to the lack of financial support from AGLC. We would like to



Purdy's
CHOCOLATIER

CANADA'S CHOCOLATIER SINCE 1907

Can you help us reach our fundraising goals?

We get up to 25% back in fundraising profit, and you get chocolates made in Canada with premium quality ingredients, and sustainable cocoa.

Thank you for your support!

<small>WHO WE ARE</small>	
Henryk Sienkiewicz School Parent Association	
<small>WE'RE FUNDRAISING FOR</small>	
Henryk Sienkiewicz Saturday Polish School	
<small>ORDER ONLINE:</small>	<small>PLACE & PAY FOR ORDERS BY:</small>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign in or create a new supporter account either by clicking the link sent to you by our coordinator or by visiting fundraising.purdys.com 2. If you're creating a new account, please enter the customer number below on the registration page. 3. If you're signing into an existing account, enter the number below into the search bar that will come up after you've signed in. 4. Click on JOIN CAMPAIGN. 	<p>November 24, 2021</p> <hr/> <p><small>DATE</small></p>
<p>Christmas Sweet Gifts</p> <hr/> <p><small>CUSTOMER NUMBER</small></p>	<p><small>PICK UP ORDERS ON:</small></p> <p>December 4, 2021</p> <hr/> <p><small>DATE</small></p>
<small>AT:</small>	
Vanguard College - School	
<small>LOCATION</small>	
<small>If you have any questions, please contact your coordinator:</small>	
Katarzyna Zabrocka-Trela	
<small>COORDINATOR NAME</small>	
780-966-7411	
<small>PHONE</small>	
kasiazabrocka@hotmail.com	
<small>EMAIL</small>	

avoid this threat and be more proactive in our fundraising. Therefore, we decided to partner up with Purdy's again and raise as much as possible to aid our school financially.

Please consider joining our campaign Christmas Sweet Gifts by following the link below.

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1357245-88014>

Thank you for your continued support.

News from IHLA's Sister Organizations

NEWS! from *Forum of Heritage Language Coalition of Europe (FOHLC)*

2021 Online Conference: Future-proofing Heritage Language Education. Free of Charge!

Topics will include online learning, succession planning, and other ideas for HL program sustainability. Let's gain a fresh perspective on the future of HL education in Europe!

This year attendance of the conference will be free of charge! And will be hosted on November 19th and 20th, 2021.

For more information, please visit their website and read their description below.

<https://www.hlenet.org/fohlce2021>

OUR TEAM

FOHLC Europe 2021 is organized by Móðurmál, Heritage Language Education Network (formerly Heritage Language Schools Eindhoven), and Multilingual Café.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of FOHLC Europe is to bring together once per year umbrella organizations, associations, coalitions, and networks of heritage language (HL) programs, as well as the leaders, managers, and teachers of HL programs in Europe. For example, umbrella organizations and coalitions can bring together HL programs based on shared geographic location (e.g., all HL programs in Iceland) or they can bring together HL programs based on language (e.g. a coalition of Czech HL programs across Europe).

Future PD Sessions 2021/2022

November 2021:

Multimodal Learning 2 Late November (Day TBA)

Time: (TBA)

Dr. Olenka Bilash, Professor at the University of Alberta

A continuation of our teachers often wonder how to make lessons more meaningful for our students. Dr. Bilash shared insights with us about how to make lessons more interactive. She taught us how to scaffold lessons so that students move from creating simple dialogues to more complex ones. One way that this could be achieved was through the use of pictures. This excellent session will be repeated and recorded next school year. We can't wait!

December 2021:

For All: Mother Language Day Planning (TBA)

January 2022:

Who are YOU? Developing plurilinguistic identities January 19, 2022

Time: (TBA)

Renata Emilsson Pesková, Phd Adjunct Lecturer at University of Iceland

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