

International & Heritage Languages Association



IHLA NEWSLETTER



Good News

Happy spring to you all!

Special points of interest:

- The Alberta Education Language Learning at the Community Level Grant Application for 2007-2009 was successfully accepted
- The IHLA AGM will take place on June 4, 2007 at the IHLA Office



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On behalf of the IHLA Executive Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce to all our member schools that IHLA has received confirmation of new funding from Alberta Education. The new education grant that IHLA applied for the 2007-2009 school years period has been approved.

This great news come at a crucial time for our organization, as we begin to solidify our presence at the local, provincial, national and international level, as a valid instrument of communication, information sharing and support to all schools of international and heritage languages at the community level.

Our longstanding relationship with institutions such as Alberta Education has proven an effective strategy to provide mutual support to our member schools, as IHLA member schools directly communicate and share their perspectives, their knowledge and their own resources to inform decisions at the government level.

IHLA is grateful to all individuals who supported the grant application and guided us through this very important process. This will allow IHLA to continue its main initiatives, especially in the field of professional development, school assistance, curriculum and resource development and international and heritage language education awareness.

We also review of the past events, including the successful 4th International Mother Language Day at City Hall, on February 24, 2007.

I invite you all to the upcoming AGM on June 4, 2007.

All the best to what is left in the school year and may your summer be filled with joyful experiences.



Bonnie Szulc and Josephine Pallard at the 4th International Mother Language Day



Josephine Pallard

International Mother Language Day

IHLA invites you all to its 5th International Mother Language Day Celebration.

IHLA will celebrate its 5th International Mother Language Day on **Saturday, February 23, 2008**. Mark your school calendars and begin planning for a great event with all your students and community members.

Meanwhile, read on a about this year's event and enjoy the pictures we took during the celebration (more on the web-site).



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4th International Mother Language Day at City Hall

IHLA schools successfully organized the 4th International Mother Language Day at City Hall, on February 24, 2007.

This event took place at City Hall, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and was well attended. Honorary guests included Mayor Stephen Mandel, the Hon. Deputy Minister for Alberta Education, Keray Henke and the Hon. Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA (Edmonton Castedowns Constituency).

This year, 24 schools were involved in the organization and attendance of the event, with a greater number of students' participating, through the setting of special tables, skits, dances and performances.

The highlights of the event included the award winning ceremonies of the essay writers and the poster designers. Students of IHLA member schools reflected, through written and visual representations, on the theme of the event: "The Human Race Needs Bridges: Let Our Words Build Them!" .

International Mother Language Day continues to remain a fantastic opportunity to celebrate languages and cultures from all over the world, their richness and their values. The day fosters harmony and collaboration, through learning opportunities among diverse cultures, so richly represented by the diverse and numerous IHLA

community language schools.

IHLA wishes to personally thank all schools involved in the participation and organization of the event.

A special thank you goes to City Hall staff (Betty we really appreciate your support!) and to all our contributors who continue to make it possible for us to organize the event.

IHLA plans to connect with UNESCO for future celebrations of this event and counts on all its member schools to bring forth new ideas to make it an even greater success.



John Paul II Polish Bilingual Program Table.

Language helps form the limits of our reality

(Dale Spender)



IHLA Community Language Learning Project Implementation Grant 2005-2007 Report



A summary of the Project Report that IHLA submitted to Alberta Education as a result of the initiatives and events completed under the 2005-2007 grant.

- Newsletters
- IHLA website (including school personalized Web-Pages and e-mail accounts)
- Leadership Programs (2005/06 and 2006/07)
- 3rd and 4th International Mother Language Day Events at City Hall
- Membership and activate participation in the following organizations: Intercultural and Second Language Council (ISLC); Alberta Association for Multicultural Educations (AAME); International Cultural Research Network (ICRN); Canadian Association for Second Language Education (CASLT); Canadian Language Association (CLA)
- Presentation and attendance to provincial, national and international conferences (ISLC 2005- Calgary and 2006—Edmonton; ICRN 2006—Greece; the SAHLA Symposium 2006—Calgary)
- Chinese Language and Culture one-day Workshop (June 2005)
- International and Heritage Language Education Presentation by Dr. Jim Cummins (May 2006) - DVD recording and study guide
- IHLA Histories Series
- Locally Developed Programs of Studies (Korean, Phillipino; Russian and Eritrean)
- TOEFL Preparation courses
- School-based assistance and support



IHLA SCHOOL PAGES ON THE IHLA WEBSITE



All IHLA schools have access to a special web page that can be updated on a regular basis upon request. IHLA schools also receive a special e-mail address on the IHLA domain space. Your school will receive detailed information on how to access the e-mail address that the IHLA office will be using to communicate with all its schools on a regular basis.

Any additions or comments to the website should be directed to the IHLA office through the following e-mail address:

ihla@telus.net

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OWN SCHOOL WEB PAGE FOR ANY
INFORMATION YOU WISH TO SPREAD IN YOUR COMMUNITY**



IHLA OFFICE CLOSURE

The IHLA office will be closed between April 24 and May 14, 2007. E-mail inquiries at IHLA will be attended to during this period.

IHLA Updates

- The Alberta Association for Multicultural Education (AAME) that IHLA is part of, completed a board retreat on March 10 and 11, in Red Deer. A Board meeting is expected to occur in late April in Edmonton and the AGM will be in June. The organization is revising its website to better represent its mission of multicultural umbrella organization for our province.
- Thank you to all IHLA member schools who organized and attended the 4th International Mother Language Day on February 24, 2007 at City Hall. The event was a great success.
- 24 IHLA member schools completed the Leadership Program through IHLA and successfully applied and received access to educational funds.
- IHLA will be presenting and attending the International Cultural Research Network Conference in Glasgow

(Scotland) on May 3-6 2007 entitled: "Exploring Cultural perspectives in Education". A review of the conference and sharing session will be offered to all IHLA member schools in the fall.

- The Canadian Language Association (CLA), is an organization that represents community language associations across Canada. They will be meeting for a two-day working session at the IHLA office to network, discuss and share ideas and long-term planning strategies, on May 25 and 26, 2007. IHLA board members will be attending and will be sharing information at a later date.
- The Eritrean Language School of Edmonton is undergoing a working series of sessions to write a locally developed program of studies for the Eritrean language and culture 15, 25, 35, that will be later submitted to Alberta Education for approval.

Currently the committee has completed the first draft of the Global Citizenship session of the program, based on the International Languages Framework of Reference (Canadian Western Protocol)

- 15 IHLA teachers attended and completed a special workshop series presented by the International Languages Educators' Association (ILEA) of Ontario. The workshops were very nicely presented and conducted by ILEA staff, and offered IHLA teachers an opportunity to learn more about language education in other parts of Canada. Several practical ideas and suggestions were also shared. We invite you all to contact the IHLA office to receive handouts and resources that were shared at the sessions.



"To have another language is to possess a second soul."

Charlemagne



IHLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 4, 2007

The IHLA AGM will take place at the IHLA office on Monday June 4th, 2007

IHLA member schools are invited to send their administrators and teacher representatives to the AGM (at least two per school)

Special Keynote address by

Terese Szlamp-Fryga

President of the Canadian Polish Congress (Alberta Branch)

Please RSVP to the IHLA office via e-mail (ihla@telus.net) by May 21, 2007

Terese Szlamp-Fryga

Terese Szlamp-Fryga has been president of the Canadian Polish Congress-Alberta Branch since 2003.

Ms. Szlamp-Fryga has been teaching English as a Second Language at NorQuest College since 1983. She also writes and translates.

IHLA is currently accepting nominations of IHLA member school teachers and/or administrators who would like to be considered for the IHLA Board of Directors. 3 positions will be voted on at the upcoming AGM. Interested individuals should contact IHLA by no later than May 14, 2007 via e-mail. Nominations will be considered upon endorsement of IHLA school administrators.

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Established in 1978 and formerly known as NAHLA, IHLA is a non-profit organization that actively promotes cross-cultural understanding through heritage/international language instruction and education. IHLA serves as the umbrella body for approximately 25 heritage schools involved in the teaching of international and heritage languages in Central and Northern Alberta. The Association represents all levels of language instruction and education for over 32 languages and 12,000+ students of international languages outside the public school system in Alberta.

IHLA's primary objectives include:
supporting and promoting international and heritage language education
assisting in the development of international and heritage language curriculum, teaching resources and materials
supporting international and heritage language teacher training and skill development

IHLA supports the view that international language education increases the level and respect and appreciation for multiculturalism and the diversity of Canada's peoples.



www.ihla.ca



Reading Corner

This section is dedicated to **Language Learning Tips** for all. Follow the links below and enjoy some suggestions on how to best learn and teach a language.

- **Omniglot**— Language learning - some tips— *This section contains a collection of advice, suggestions, tips and techniques for learning languages, something I've been doing for many years.*
<http://www.omniglot.com/language/index.htm>
- **Parents Information Sheet**— What parents can do to support language learning at home.
http://education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/res_cd/Resources/Tip_sheet.pdf
- **Learning Strategies**— Self-directed learner need to identify the strategies that make them more effective language learners.
<http://www.nvcc.edu/home/lfranklin/strategies.htm>
- **Multilingual Children's Association**— 10 tips for Boosting the Minority Language
<http://www.multilingualchildren.org/tips/ideas.html>
- **RCLD**—Strategies for Helping Students Learn a Foreign Language
<http://www2.gsu.edu/~wworld/Resources/strategiesforeignlanguage.htm>

