

FALL 2009

LANGUAGE CULTURE CONNECTION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

A Newsletter for
Students, Parents & Teachers from



Partners for Success and Innovation

INSIDE:

WORLD-WISE STUDENTS

The world in which today's students will graduate is far different than the world which we know now.

Graduating world-wise students is a national priority.



BRAND YOUR SCHOOL WITH LCC

see Page 3

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- Feature Article
- News & Events
- Biography
- Kid's Page

New School Year- New Initiatives!

PSI's *LanguageCultureConnection*© initiative continues to grow.

Last school year marked the beginning of Mandarin language and culture instruction in several elementary schools in NE Ohio. Parents, students and teachers alike were thrilled with this amazing educational opportunity being offered by PSI.

The **ChinaLink**© program at St. Jude School in Elyria was featured on PBS's student program *Newsdepth*.

http://www.wviz.org/education/news-depth_topic/15532

This school year marks the beginning of Mandarin Language instruction at several well-known NE Ohio high schools.

Students are studying Mandarin I and II and additional levels will be added each year as students progress. Recently, these students participated in a field trip to a *China Week* presentation at University of Akron (See **High School...**, page 4).

At the request of several PSI partner schools, we have also begun a **Spanish-Link**© program and have placed teachers at the elementary level. Again, this is a combination of language and culture.

—please see **Initiatives**, page 4

Hello. 你好 ¡hola!

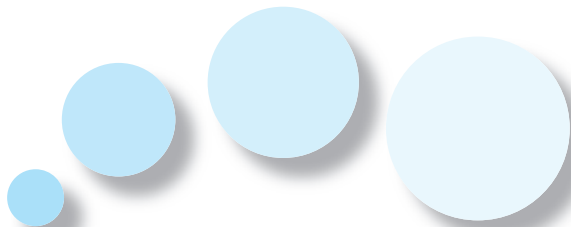
You can open your students' eyes to a new world of language opportunities!

Offer foreign language at your school creatively and economically.

Whether you want full or part-time teachers, 9 week modules, professional development or more, PSI connects you to global education, cutting-edge curriculum, and new students.

Learn More about
LANGUAGE CULTURE CONNECTION

Contact Karen McKelvey at:
800-841-4774, ext. 230 or
info@psi-solutions.org



World-Wise Students

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The World Has Changed

The world in which today's students will graduate is far different than the world which we know now.

As never before, American education must prepare students for a world where the opportunities for success require the ability to compete and cooperate on a global scale.

The globalization of economies, the rise of China and India, advances in science and communications technology, acceleration of international migration—and the fact that virtually every major health, environmental, and human security challenge Americans face can be solved only through international collaboration—**will require our high school graduates to be far more knowledgeable about world regions, cultures, and global issues. But we have not emphasized such skills in our schools.**

A 2007 report from the National Academy of Sciences warns, "The pervasive lack of knowledge of foreign cultures and languages threatens the security of the United States and as well its ability to compete in the global marketplace and produce an informed citizenry."

How Does YOUR School Measure Up?

Over time, globally oriented schools develop key common elements. These schools:

- Create a global vision and culture by revising their mission statements and graduate profiles and creating a school culture that supports internationally focused teaching and learning;
- Develop an internationally oriented faculty by recruiting teachers with international interests and encouraging teachers to take advantage of the many professional development and study/travel opportunities offered through universities and international organizations;
- Integrate international content into all curriculum areas, bringing a global dimension to science and language arts, as well as social studies and languages;
- Emphasize the learning of world languages, including less commonly taught languages, such as Chinese and Arabic;
- Expand student experiences through internationally oriented service learning, internships, and partnerships and exchanges with schools in other countries; and
- Harness technology to tap global information sources, create international collaborations, and offer international courses and languages online, especially to underserved communities.



The National Challenge

Graduating the next generation of students prepared for the challenges of a diverse globally interconnected world is a national challenge, not just a state or local one.

Our new president and Congress, working with the nation's governors, business, and education leaders, need to create a new national policy to ensure that we not only produce more high school and college graduates but that those graduates are globally competent citizens, ready to take their place in the world community.

For 50 years, the federal government has played a critical role in fostering foreign language and area studies expertise at the postsecondary level, but in the 21st century, knowledge of the world is no longer a luxury for a small group of experts but a requirement for an educated person.

As a new administration and Congress consider the reauthorization of federal funding for elementary and secondary education, a new federal-state partnership will be needed to make access to an internationally competitive world-class education and graduating globally competent citizens a national priority.

Excerpts from:
<http://www.asiasociety.org/education-learning/partnership-global-learning/making-case/world-wise-students>

Spotlight: PSI's New Spanish Teacher Meet Kay Almy



Kay Almy holds a Masters degree in Spanish as well as certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

She has experienced teaching Spanish at all grade and language levels. Kay's philosophy for teaching a foreign language is simple: "If a Spanish program is stimulating enough to engage a child's curiosity and engaging enough to fulfill a child's sense of fun, then learning Spanish will happen naturally."

To this end, Kay reworks lesson plans to include music and games that drive home new terms and pronunciations.

She uses learning games like Bingo and Hangman, storytelling, projects, interactive presentations, and computer to supplement the curriculum.

What is a piñata?

A piñata is a figure, usually made from a clay pot covered with paper mache and decorated in bright colors, with candy and fruit inside. At parties piñatas are suspended from a rope and children, usually blind-folded, take turns hitting it with a stick until it breaks and the candy falls out onto the ground and the children rush to collect it. Breaking the piñata is a fun activity at Mexican parties.

History and Meaning of the Piñata

The piñata is said to have originated at the same time as the Christmas Posadas, in Acolman de Nezahualcoyotl, in the present state of Mexico, near the archaeological site of Teotihuacan. In 1586 the Augustinian friars in Acolman received authorization from Pope Sixtus V to hold what were called "misas de aguinaldo", which later became the posadas.

It was at these masses that were held in the days leading up to Christmas that the friars introduced the piñata. They used the piñata as an allegory to help them in their efforts to evangelize the native people of the region.

The original piñata was shaped like a star with seven points. The points represented the seven deadly sins, and the bright colors of the piñata symbolize temptation. The blindfold represents faith and the stick is virtue or the will to overcome sin. The candies and other goodies inside the piñata are the riches of the kingdom of heaven. Thus teaching that with faith and virtue one could overcome sin and receive all the rewards of heaven.

The Piñata Today

In Mexico piñatas are an important part of birthday parties and other parties for children.

They also figure prominently in the celebration of posadas at Christmastime. Piñatas now come in a wide variety of designs, such as cartoon characters and animals.



The Piñata Song

*As the piñata is being hit,
a song is sung:*

Dale, dale dale
No pierdas el tino
Por que si lo pierdes,
Pierdes el camino
Ya le diste uno
Ya le diste dos
Ya le diste tres
Y tu tiempo se acabo

Translation:

Hit it, hit it, hit it
Don't lose your aim
Because if you lose it
You will lose your way
You hit it once
You hit it twice
You hit it three times
And your time is up

Information from About.com

Schools use PSI'S
LANGUAGE CULTURE
CONNECTION
as a **GREAT Marketing Tool!**

This program allows schools to offer critical language classes that parents want for their children. It can distinguish your school from your competing schools and it is affordable.

Our program can be offered as a module or on a part time basis. LCC offers an excellent way to 'brand' your school and to attract new students.
Call PSI for more information.

High School Mandarin Students Take Field Trip to University of Akron's Chinese Week

On October 7, 2009, students from Walsh Jesuit High School and St. Vincent-St. Mary High School spent the day learning more about China and its culture. The field trip was organized by PSI ChinaLink teacher, Hui-Ying Lee.

The University of Akron and its Confucius Institute sponsored this week-long event which included a series of free public presentations focused on China's culture, politics, economy, history and language during China Week, Oct. 5-9, at the UA campus.

Events included:

- presentations such as "China's Rise to Power and the Impact of Sino-American Relations and World Politics;"
- films including "The Road Home," which centers on rural education, old-fashioned courtship, traditional burial customs and related themes;
- programs, such as "Fun with Chinese Characters and Proverbs," "Learning Chinese," "China's Population: New Trends and Challenges" and "Working Together: How Chinese and Americans Misunderstand Each Other;"
- a photography exhibit titled "Seen in China;"
- a traditional Chinese dumpling party; and
- a program on how traditional Chinese medicine, Qigong and acupuncture contribute to health and longevity.

The students were able to learn things which expanded and deepened their sense of China, its culture, and its government. These types of activities are what set ChinaLink apart and which enrich the experience of simply learning a language.

LANGUAGE CULTURE CONNECTION WORD SEARCH

N Y N D S T N E D U T S I C M J C
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Initiatives

continued from page 1

One of our newest teachers, Kay Almy, is featured on page 3. Spanish is the most widely studied language by U.S. students. Read the article on page 2 to see why it is important for your students.