

DLI PARENT NEWSLETTER

Keeping Parents Informed

AAPPL PROFICIENCY TESTING

Measuring Program Language Progress

The ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) measures language learning in three modes of communication - Interpersonal, Presentational, and Interpretive. Interpersonal communication is written or spoken exchanges between two people, presentational communication is rehearsed and could be written or spoken, and interpretive communication is the ability to understand written or spoken language.

Students in grades 2, 5 and 8 take the AAPPL assessment each spring. This year, students in grade 6 will take the AAPPL since they missed the opportunity last spring. Second grade students will only be assessed on Interpersonal Listening/Speaking, and the assessment takes about 30 minutes total. Students in grades 5,6, and 8 will take assessments in the areas of Interpersonal Listening/Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Reading, and Interpretive Listening. Each segment of the test takes approximately 30 minutes. This spring, teachers will begin practicing with students as part of classroom instruction.

Parents will receive more information from teachers prior to the assessment as well as a score report before the end of the school year.

KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Welcoming the Class of 2034

In March of 2021, UCPS will run the kindergarten lottery for 14 Dual Language Immersion elementary schools across the district. District and school information sessions will be held virtually in February. The application is open during the Spread the word to your neighbors who have rising kindergartners! Schools offering kindergarten Dual Language Immersion are listed below. For more information, visit the UCPS DLI website at <http://bit.ly/UCPSDLI>.

Spanish Immersion:

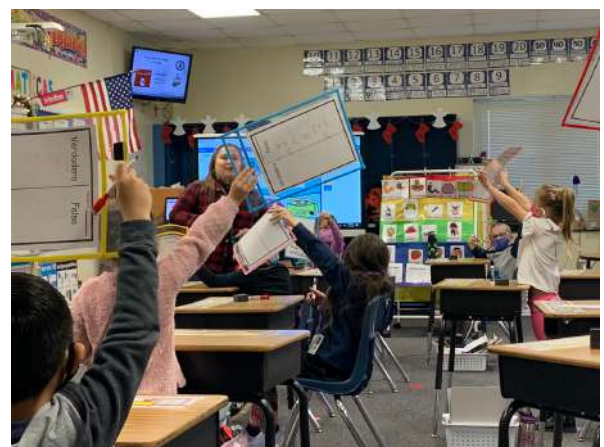
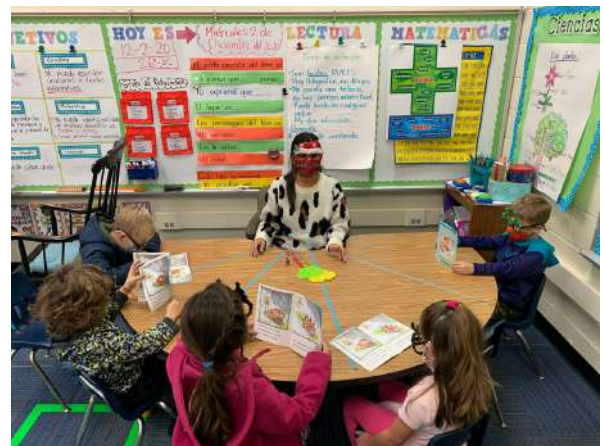
- Antioch ES
- East ES
- Marshville ES
- Poplin ES
- Porter Ridge ES
- Shiloh Valley PS/ES
- Unionville ES
- Walter Bickett ES
- Weddington ES
- Western Union ES
- Wingate ES

Mandarin Immersion:

- Kensington ES
- Marvin ES

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- *Chinese Spring Festival Planning Underway!*



SPOTLIGHT ON VIRTUAL ACADEMY TEACHERS

Meet Yaqueline Novoa and Stephanie Niño Acosta

At the end of October, Union County Public Schools launched a Dual Language Immersion Spanish Virtual Academy for students who opted into Plan D, the all-virtual option. This virtual academy brought students from 12 elementary schools together under one umbrella. There have certainly been challenges, but our teachers are rockstars and are doing a great job! In this newsletter, we feature the third grade team, Yaqueline Novoa and Stephanie Niño Acosta. Ms. Novoa teaches Spanish language arts and math in Spanish, and science and social studies in English. Ms. Niño teaches English Language Arts.

Ms. Novoa is originally from Bogotá, Colombia. She has worked with children since 2011. Her bachelor's degree is in education, and she has experience teaching elementary-level students in a variety of settings. She worked as an elementary teacher in Bogotá for 4 years, and also worked in a Spanish immersion school in Sioux Falls, SD.

Ms. Novoa has a close and awesome family including a husband, mom, dad, two sisters, a brother, three dogs, and a cat. Something fun about Ms. Novoa is that she says she is not very good at drawing. "The children laugh at my drawings. I can start by drawing a dog that looks like a bear at the end. I always tell them that they must use their imagination." She also says that "It is wonderful to see the progress of the students every week; they are my motivation to be a better teacher every day."



Yaqueline Novoa



Stephanie Niño Acosta

Stephanie Niño is from southern New Hampshire. She graduated from the University of Vermont in 2011 with a BA in English linguistics. After graduating, she moved to Charlotte to obtain her teaching certificate and a Masters in TESOL from UNC Charlotte in 2014. For the past seven years, she has been an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher for UCPS and CMS. This is her first year in the DLI program as an English teacher. Her husband, Hernan, is a high school math teacher and they have two daughters: Catalina, 3 years and Luciana, 1.5 years. Hernan is Colombian so he speaks Spanish exclusively to their girls. Ms. Niño understands a lot of Spanish and can speak it *un poco* but she will always consider herself a lifelong Spanish learner. In her free time, she loves reading, DIY projects, and home decorating.

Ms. Niño says, "I am so grateful to be a part of this DLI program. It is amazing to witness such growth among the students and I am impressed with their knowledge of the Spanish language and culture. This program has helped me become a better teacher and pushed me beyond my comfort zone. This experience has taught me that "when the going gets tough, the tough get going" and I hope to inspire my students to learn from home during this challenging time.

SUGGESTIONS TO KEEP LEARNING AT HOME

There are many ways students can practice their language skills while at home. In addition to those resources provided by the school system, students can hone their skills by watching TV in the target language. Here are some helpful links to access television across the world (watch programming at your own risk):

- Chile: <https://cntvinfantil.cl/series/>
- Argentina: <http://www.pakapaka.gob.ar/videos/>
- Spain: <https://babyradio.es/> and <https://happylearning.tv/>
- Chinese: [Super Cucus YouTube Channel](#), [Ju Ping Jie Jie Storytelling](#), [Stories of Traditional Chinese Culture](#), [Peppa Pig in Mandarin](#)

Play games in the target language:

- Spanish: <https://pbskids.org/games/spanish/> and <https://arbolabc.com/>
- Chinese: <https://chinese.littlefox.com/en>,

2021 IS THE YEAR OF THE OX

Mandarin immersion schools prepare for the Spring Festival

Chinese New Year, also referred to as the Spring Festival, is China's most important festival. It's a public holiday full of traditions, and a time for families to be together. This year, the Spring Festival begins on February 12, 2021. Each year is marked by one of the 12 Chinese zodiac animals. Each animal is associated with certain characteristics, and it's believed that those born in that year will possess those characteristics. The ox is the animal of the year from February 12, 2021 until January 30, 2022. Oxen are known for diligence, dependability, strength and determination.

Each Mandarin immersion teacher is preparing activities to teach students about the traditions, culture, and celebrations associated with the Spring Festival. Some of the typical traditions include:

- Sweeping the house to sweep away bad luck and welcome the New Year
- Eating dumplings
- Exchanging red envelopes with money in them
- Writing couplets on red paper with ink or gold paint
- Setting off firecrackers
- Visiting relatives

Obviously all of these activities can't be done in school, but students will learn how these traditions are celebrated and experience those that are school appropriate.



Red envelopes are given to children by parents, grandparents, and other relatives. The red envelopes must contain new bills.



Couplets were originally written to scare away evil spirits. Now they are used as a decoration around doorways.



China is known for fireworks. In fact, many historians believe that fireworks were originally developed in the second century B.C. in Liuyang, China. Many cities are considering cancelling fireworks shows this year due to health concerns related to the coronavirus.

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