

IHLA Newsletter



International & Heritage Languages Association



Special points of interest:

- IHLA 28th Anniversary
- 3rd Annual International Mother Language Day
- IHLA News Corner
- International and Heritage Languages Forum with Dr. Jim Cummins
- IHLA Highlights

IHLA Celebrates!

February 17, 2006 marked the 28th anniversary gala of IHLA – International and Heritage Languages Association in collaboration with AAME – Alberta Association for Multicultural Education’s 25th anniversary. Special guests from the three levels of government, supporters and friends who attended the gala dinner spoke highly of the activities, achievements and the strong leadership of IHLA in the preservation and promotion of international and heritage languages.

As well, IHLA celebrated the 3rd anniversary of MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY on February 18, at the City Hall, where over 300 parents, teachers, administrators and students joined the excitement and fun of collecting passports from every language school, as they went around learning new words and common expressions. Meeting students speaking other languages was a highlight of the day. This just proves that appreciating another language and culture makes an impact in understanding and accepting ones difference.

Before ending another successful school year, IHLA will be hosting a forum on May 13, 2006 with Dr. Jim Cummins from OISE – Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, as the motivational speaker. Dr. Cummins is not new to IHLA. His research has focused on the nature of language proficiency and second language acquisition with particular emphasis on culturally diverse students. I encourage everyone to



Sab Roncucci receives a Legacy Award at the anniversary and special entertainers fill in the celebrations with music and colorful dancing acts.



come and listen to him. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how he empowers minority students, his framework for intervention – a notable contribution to education.

To everyone, have a relaxing Spring Break. Enjoy your families.

Josephine Pallard



IHLA's Presentation at the Intercultural Research Network Conference in Greece



IHLA will be presenting at the Intercultural research Network Conference in 2006. The Conference will take place at Aristotle University of Thessalonika, Greece from July 10-15, 2006.

IHLA's position paper at the conference is on: "Support, Enhancement and Promotion of International and Heritage Language Education at the

Community Level: 28 Years of challenges and successes!!

Two IHLA board members will be representing IHLA as delegates and will be reporting back to the association in the early fall.

Good luck and congratulations!

Conference information available at: <http://www.icrn.ca/>

IHLA 28th Anniversary Gala

On Friday, February 17, 2006 IHLA celebrated its 28th Anniversary gala at the Westin Hotel, in Edmonton. The evening was attended by 130 guests, including teachers, administrators, parents, and special guests as shown in the pictures below. The celebration allowed everyone to share in the spirit of success and with a great sense of pride, the many initiatives that IHLA carried out in the past 28

years in support of international and heritage languages education, at the community level.

The event was enriched by a number of entertainment acts from different community members who displayed their musical talents.



Our Honorable guests at the 28th Anniversary Gala (from left to right):

Hai Nguyen, Manager, Senior Program Officer, Canadian Identity & Cultural Development; **Thomas Lukaszuk**, MLA; **Janice Aubry**, Team Leader, Languages Initiative Curriculum Branch, Alberta Education; **Dr. Wally Lazaruk**, IHLA Principal Consultant; **Fran Zaborniak**, President, AAME; **Mr. Andy Hladyshevsky**, QC/ Lawyer; **Ms. Teresa Szlamp-Fryga**, President, Polish Congress; **Honorary Consul Esmeralda Agbulos**, Philippine Consulate.



3rd Annual International Mother Language Day

On Saturday, February 18, 2006 IHLA celebrated the 3rd Annual International Mother Language Day at City Hall, in Edmonton.

The event, now a major public venue to display and share the richness of the school programs that IHLA member schools offer in international and heritage languages, was attended by about 400 people and brought together 17 of IHLA 26 member schools.

Highlights of the event include: special entertainment acts from community groups; the winners of the writing and poster contest where students wrote essay entries in their mother tongue on the theme of the event: "The Human Race Needs Bridge: Let Our Words Build Them!"; the passport games and special presentations by Dr. Wally Lazaruk and Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA.



Alberta Education contributed with a special donation prize of a learning resource kit (values at over \$300.00) that was won by the St. Andrew's Ukrainian Language School.



Forum on International Heritage Languages

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jim Cummins

Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE)

Location to be determined

Public Event! (more information to follow)

Call the IHLA office or visit the IHLA website for more details.



A warm thank you to all staff at the Westin Hotel for their outstanding service during IHLA's gala, and also a warm thank you to the staff at City Hall for their patience and their availability.



IHLA News Corner

- The Russian School of Edmonton, Erudite, was asked by a community school of Russian in Calgary to share its Alberta Education Locally developed approved program of studies for Russian 15, 25, 35 and gladly agreed to share it.
- The IHLA AGM meeting will be held at the IHLA office on Monday, June 5th, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. All member schools are invited to attend.
- 12 IHLA member schools completed the first Leadership Program and qualified for a special funding application to support their dedication and hard work to teach international and heritage languages at the community level. The program will be offered again in the 2006-07 school year and schools will be invited to apply to participate in the program (more details will be given at the Annual AGM).
- The Special Advisor for the Chinese Language at Alberta Education, Jincheng Huang, donated a set of Chinese Dictionaries to Chinese language IHLA member schools.





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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.



IHLA'S PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES HIGHLIGHTS

Alberta Locally Approved Curricula

Under the guidance and pedagogical support of IHLA leaders, IHLA member schools can plan, design and write locally developed programs of studies that can be presented to Alberta Education for approval (based on the guidelines set by Alberta Education and available at: <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/educationguide/pol-plan/polregs/121.asp> — Policy 1.2.1 - Locally Developed/Acquired and Authorized Junior and Senior High School Complementary Courses.)

Currently three IHLA member schools have successfully completed the process and are offering courses based on such approved programs:

1. The Edmonton Korean Language Schools offers Korean Language and Culture 15, 25, 35
2. The Edmonton Russian Erudite School of Edmonton offers Russian Language and Culture 15, 25, 35 and
3. The Philippine Language and Cultural School of Edmonton offers Philipino Language and Culture 15, 25, 35.

Teacher Training and Support

IHLA continues its efforts to support community language schools and their teachers by hosting symposia, presenting and participating at conference, offering workshops and facilitating university level courses in language education, at the local, provincial, national and international level. Some of the courses offered in the past years include:

1. Theory and Practice in Second Languages
2. Meaningful Activities and Interactions for Second Language Students
3. TOEFL preparation courses
4. Learning Resources Courses (offered by Dr. Olenka Bilash of the University of Alberta)
5. Teacher Certification Assessment Workshops (presented by Alberta Education Staff)
6. History and Culture of Languages.

So many reasons to join IHLA!