

IHLA Newsletter

November—December 2004 Issue



Volume 2, Issue 2

November 8, 2004

Greetings from the President

The winter season is here and IHLA is ready to celebrate this holiday season with all its members and supporters.

This issue is all about celebrations and success stories that IHLA is happy to share with the entire community. You will read about successful language programs, award stories and more initiatives to

celebrate international and heritage languages education and awareness in our province and nation wide.

Many new opportunities are ready to be embraced by IHLA members. Ensure that you read all the details about the second Annual Mother Language Day Celebration, on February 19, 2005. New workshops and courses are

also planned for January 2005. We hope you will find them interesting and will be attending with your usual enthusiasm. On behalf of the IHLA Board of Directors, I wish to extend our most sincere season's greetings and wishes of peace and growth.

Josephine Pallard
President

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Jan Pawel II Polish Bilingual Program Staff

Special Points of Interest

- Polish Programs Celebrations
- Portuguese School Celebrations and Awards
- International Mother Language Day
- Language Resources Course
- IHLA Members Winter Celebration—November 29, 2004

IHLA is proud to celebrate two very important anniversary events for two Polish Language Programs in Edmonton. Read on.

Jan Pawel II Bilingual Program at St. Basil Catholic School

This school year began with our twentieth anniversary as a separate program within the Edmonton Catholic Schools District Community. A celebration began on the first Sunday after the beginning of the school year, with Mass at Holy Rosary Parish, followed by a birthday celebration at the Polish hall. The picture shows staff and parishioners together after mass. A great turnout followed at

Polish Language Programs Success Stories

the hall reception, including Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent of ECSD and Mayor Bill Smith. Over six hundred people were in attendance, including representatives of all Polish organizations.

Sandy Gillis, Principal



H. Sienkiewicz Polish School 50th Anniversary

On Saturday, November 6, 2004, the H. Sienkiewicz Polish Language Community School celebrated its 50th anniversary of operation. As a coordinator of IHLA, I was invited to participate in the celebration that began at 6:30 with an excellent theatrical representation of the life and works of H. Sienkiewicz, renowned Polish writer, Nobel prize for Literature in 1905. I was personally amazed at the graceful performance of students and teachers of the school who hon-

oured the patron in fluent Polish language

A very good meal followed the ceremony with a number of speeches and messages from different honorable guests. Mayor Steven Mandel sent his congratulation message to the school and the community who has been so nicely supporting for the past 50 years.

The dance floor was then taken by all guests, young and young at heart until the late hours of the night.

I would like to express again my admiration for this significant milestone that the school has reached and how inspiring it is for all of us to know how far and how well the Polish community of Edmonton has been able to preserve its language and culture.

Valeria Palladino, Coordinator

Gil Vicente, Portuguese School

The Portuguese School started in September 1971 with a group of about ten students. In October 1972, with the encouragement of the Portuguese Counsel in Vancouver, at that time, Dr. Joao Valadas, the school continued with 25 students registered and in June 1973 the Portuguese School was recognized by the Portuguese government and the students wrote exams that were recognized in Portugal.

As the interest of the Portuguese community grew and immigration was still open to Portuguese families coming to Canada, the number of students grew to its peak in 1982/83, with an attendance of about 200 students in 8 different classes according to

their linguistic competence in Portuguese.

In the past few years with the change of government in Portugal and the improvement of standard of living, greater integration of Portuguese people in the Canadian culture and a lesser number of new immigrants to Canada, student attendance to the school diminished.

However, this year, the interest in learning the Portuguese language is rising again and we have currently 105 students enrolled in the program. This may have been a result of the new direction that Alberta Learning is taking on with the Languages Initiative and the 2006 mandate. Students and the community at large are beginning to be



more aware of the importance of languages not only for family relationships but for economic and personal advantages.

The school is a very active member of IHLA and it operates out of St. Cecilia Junior High school building.

If you are interested in learning more about this school please contact Dulce Azevedo at: dulcedoceu@shaw.ca or visit the school at the IHLA website. (www.nahla.net)

Dulce Azevedo, Principal



Alberta's Unsung Heroines—Dulce Azevedo

On October 6, 2004 Dulce Azevedo received the Alberta's Unsung Heroines Award a distinguished recognition of exceptional commitment and hard work for the community. IHLA is proud of counting Dulce among its most valuable supporters and members. Read more about this exceptional individual.

Dulce Do Ceu Pinto Azevedo was born in Moncorvo, Portugal and immigrated to Canada in 1978. Her husband, Tony, Victor, her nineteen-month-old son and Claudia her three month old daughter, accompanied her.

Dulce began teaching Portuguese classes that were sponsored through the Portu-

guese Church in Edmonton, Alberta. In April 1982, she co-founded the Gil Vicente Portuguese School Society in Edmonton. Dulce is currently principal of this school and has been teaching grade threes for the last ten years.

Since her arrival in Edmonton Dulce had always participated in community events and celebrations, and she has been an active and key member of IHLA for the past 15 years.

As a Canadian Citizen, one of Dulce's main objectives is to continue preserving the Portuguese language and culture within the community of Alberta. This is a passion that she has committed herself to for the last 26

years.



On November 5, 6 and 7 the Intercultural and Second Language Council of the Alberta Teachers Association

hosted its annual conference in Edmonton. The conference was very well attended by more than 200 delegates, including members of the IHLA board, who also actively participated in the presentation that IHLA and SAHLA hosted on Sunday morning, about the updates on their joint project efforts.

The conference theme was: "A

ISLC Conference, Nov. 5-7, 2004

New Direction" and it signified the new direction that second language teaching and learning is undergoing, in light of what is being called the "Languages Initiatives 2006 Mandate".

It was very refreshing and encouraging to see so many delegates from all parts of the province come together to share ideas, enthusiasm and concerns about this new mandate, that will see all grade four to nine students taking a second language, beginning with grade four

in 2006.

A message that was very well received by all was the opening keynote speech by Dr. John Archibald of the University of Calgary. His message stressed the fact that language learning is absolutely possible to all learners at all ages and that learning only brings advantages to the learners, at all academic and social levels.

(cont. page 4)

February 19, 2005—International Mother Language Day

On Saturday, February 19, 2005 IHLA will host the second annual International Mother Language Day, at City Hall, in downtown Edmonton. This fantastic celebration will see all IHLA member schools host a variety of activities, games, displays and much more to create awareness and enhance knowledge of the many different international and heritage languages in our province.

Once more, IHLA member schools are invited to call the office and prepare their students to actively be involved in this event, from

the writing of essays in their international languages taught at the school, to skits, to presentations and other traditional demonstrations of cultures and history.

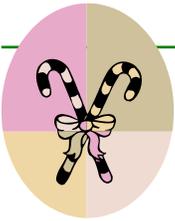
Special games will be organized once more, dances and music acts will be presented during the whole day, special guests will be invited to speak and support the learning and maintenance of the mother tongue. Most of all, all IHLA member schools will be able to display and showcase their own school through tables that will be provided upon request.

More than 400 people were in attendance

at last year's event and IHLA is confident that an even greater amount of audience will be able to come this year, as we are beginning the event set up well in advance.

Please refer to the newsletter insert to begin your planning and ensure that all your students, teachers and parent community will be able to attend next February. IHLA looks forward to a magnificent celebration.

Call the office at : 780-428-5510 for more information.



Dr. Olenka Bilash Language Learning Resources Analysis Course

Dr. Olenka Bilash, Coordinator for International Languages at the University of Alberta will offer the Language Learning Resources Analysis Course Level I beginning December 18, 2004. This course will continue after the Christmas holidays and will focus on the analysis and development of resources in international and heritage languages.

The same course was offered to many teachers of IHLA member schools in June 2003 and taught principles of learning resource selection and adaptation. IHLA is now opening the same opportunity to a new group of teachers, with the vision of offering the level II of the course once this group completes all the work for level one.

Understanding and being able

to analyze a learning resource for international and heritage languages is at the heart of a sound pedagogical approach to language instruction and learning. The resources a teacher uses reflects his or her understanding of children, adolescents or adult learners and how they learn. Through an in-depth and accurate analysis of specific learning resources, students in this course will gain crucial knowledge of materials and resources available to support their teaching and enhance the learning of their students.

The first class of this course will be offered on Saturday, December 18, 2004 at the University of Alberta, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Following sessions will be scheduled at the IHLA office between January and April 2005, averaging 12 hours per month of class

time.

The course registrations are officially open to all active teachers of IHLA member schools. Please contact the office soon to register in this course.

Language Learning Resources Analysis Level II - this course will begin in late winter—early spring 2005. It may be possible to obtain 3 university credit by completing both courses and submitting an assignment for evaluation.

Call the office to register!

Winter Celebration for IHLA Members

All IHLA member schools representatives are invited to a special Winter Celebration evening gathering at the IHLA office (#103 10010 107 a avenue, Edmonton) on November 29, 2004, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Principals and up to two teachers per schools are expected to call the office and confirm their attendance. Phone: (780) 428-5510—or e-mail: ihla@telus.net





IHLA

New Location!!!

IHLA will soon move to a new location.
The new address will be posted on the website and
all members will receive information with the next
newsletter issue.

Our phone and fax numbers as well as e-mail will
remain the same.

Ph: (780) 428-5510—Fax (780) 428-5549
E-mail: ihla@telus.net



www.nahla.net

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.

NOVEMBER 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Board Mtg.	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 workshop
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Winter Celebration 7:00 p.m.	30				



DECEMBER 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Board Mtg.	13	14	15	16	17	18 Language Resources Course begins First class—all day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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The other two very important keynote addresses of the conference were given by Dr. Olenka Bilash of the University of Alberta, long time friend and supporter of IHLA and Mr. John Sokolowski, Team Leader of the Languages Initiative at Alberta Learning.

Overall the atmosphere was one of great expectations and new hopes, in spite of the short time that divides the present situation and the future new mandate in all Alberta classroom. IHLA was extremely pleased to be once more an integral part of the discussion and will continue to validate the resources that our language instructors and teachers and communities at large can provide to support this wonderful initiative.

To read more about Dr. Archibald keynote address visit the IHLA website.