



EL Panda Newsletter



English Instruction for EL Students

Maestras Lourdes and Silvia are working with our EL students to provide them with tools that will facilitate their language acquisition during English Language Development instruction. These tools include frequency words and the use prepositions. They are learning in an exciting, physical and fun manner.

Recently, the Language Assessment and Development Department (LADD) administration visited the school to observe our pilot program. This pilot serves as an example for other English Learners in other dual immersion programs.



Events

- Friday 11/11/16**
No school
- Tuesday 11/15/16 @2:30pm**
School Site Council (Room #13)
- Wednesday 11/16/16**
Teacher Breakfast
- Friday 11/18/16**
Jog-A-Thon
- Mon 11/21/16 – Fri 11/25/16**
Thanksgiving Break
- Lunes 11/14/16 @630pm**
DELAC Meeting (119 W. Palm St. Altadena, CA 91001)
- Wednesday 12/14/16 @8am**
ELAC Meeting (Room #13)
- Thursday 12/9/16 @6pm**
PTA Meeting
- Friday 12/16/16**
Hot Chocolate Nutcraker

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Open enrollment for siblings is underway. Visit the office for more information. Let your friends and family know that Spanish tours at San Rafael are now available twice a month on Wednesday!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EL STUDENT WHEN WE TALK TO OUR CHILDREN? When my son Joaquin asked me what it meant to be an English Learner and why he had to take more exams, I told him that he was a bilingual child, who already spoke two languages and was helping other children in his classroom learn and practice Spanish. I also told him that the English test was to better prepare him for his future grades. I also told him that I was very proud of him for his double effort. - Ana Diaz Baker

Perú

By Belen Oyola-Rebaza



Ten years ago I moved to the United States from my country, Peru. A wonderful country, known worldwide for its history, culture, breathtaking scenery and delicious cuisine. If you have never tried it, I invite you to do it, you will love it! Peru has coast, mountains and jungle. I am from Lima the capital of Peru that was the center of the Spanish viceroyalty. The historical center of Lima is surrounded by beautiful colonial balconies squares and churches.

North of Lima, approximately 3 hours away, are the ruins of Caral, the oldest civilization in America, about 5000 years old, like the pyramids of Egypt! Machupicchu, Lake Titicaca, the Nazca lines are some of the many wonders of Peru.

In 2012 we traveled to Peru for the first time with my husband and my daughter Gia. It was an emotional trip because my dad and all my family were finally able to meet Gia, and my husband met the place where I was born and grew up. Here is a photo of that wonderful trip in alley of Huaylas, Peru.

ELPAC Update

By Lorena Yépez Hernández

Over a week ago I had the opportunity to speak with the California Department of Education (CDE) about the report that will be given to EL parents with the results of the new California English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPAC). The CDE shared with me the letter that was sent to the Pasadena Unified School a few days prior. The letter thanked them for the suggestions and explained the recommendations that can be implemented to better communicate with the parents. The CDE went over each recommendation with me and agreed on some of our observations. For those that they could not give a direct response to, I was invited to participate in a state stakeholder group to provide additional feedback.

- The change that has already been incorporated is to change from categories to numbers in each domain. This recommendation had also been submitted by other stakeholders and the CDE agreed that it would improve the understanding of the report. It will also reduce the number of categories from five to four.
- They cannot add a "passed / failed" on the test because the districts are in charge of the reclassification. Our district can clarify this with a letter to parents. The first reclassification letter was sent this summer.
- They agree that the test results should be provided in another languages but unfortunately there are no funds at this time. I shared some possible solutions, including adding the website so the text can be translated electronically or using a generic template as a reference.
- They cannot add that the test expires at the end of each school year because in some districts that exam is used to reclassify students until new results are available. I am in communication with our district to find out our district policy.

In the meantime, I want to thank you for your support. Together we are improving not only the school, but our district and the state.

Meet Our ELAC Families: Zeyda Loera



Where are you from? Tell us a little about your family. I am a native Angelino, born and raised in Los Angeles. My family is from Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. As I grew up in Los Angeles, I was exposed to different cultures. My mother went the extra mile to ensure her children learned about their culture. At home, we were required to speak Spanish; my mother would explain the importance of speaking two languages. The one example she would always tell me was that the more languages you speak the more friends I would have. When I became a parent I also wanted to go the extra mile to ensure my children learned about their culture, and made sure they spoke Spanish.

What traditions do you celebrate? Our family celebrates different Latin American traditions. In our family, we incorporate both Mexican and Guatemalan cultures. We want our children to understand and be proud of both cultures. Although, Mexico and Guatemala are both in Latin America, some traditions are different. During Christmas Eve; tamales are the main course for both Mexico and Guatemala. However, Mexican tamales and Guatemalan tamales are different. Mexican tamales are wrapped in corn husks, while Guatemalan tamales are wrapped in banana leaves. The masa is also cooked different and the preparation is completely different as well. What is similar is that all member of our family help in the production of making tamales.

What are some fun activities you like to do with the family in your free time? We really enjoy doing different activities and going to new places to learn about them. My family also enjoys outdoor activities, such as camping, fishing, hiking and walking our dog "Nela". On a typical weekend, we have soccer games and in the afternoon we would follow it with fishing. It makes my husband and I very happy to seen our children enjoy a new activity we exposed them to. We love to see them enjoy doing activities we did ourselves growing up.

What has been your experience at San Rafael? Why did you choose this school? In our journey of choosing the right school for our family, we came across different approaches and different learning systems. Our priorities were and are to continue to be in a place where our children can be nourished and reach their full potential, which is something we feel and have come to experience San Rafael. We are extremely grateful to be part of such an amazing community. It's priceless to see our children be so excited to go to school. San Rafael celebrates our traditions and my children have the privilege of making connections at school from their home life. For example, last week, children at San Rafeal celebrated Dia de los Muertos, which is a tradition we celebrate at home as well. Together we created our own altar for our loved ones who are no longer with us.



Hispanic Heritage Parade

Day of the Dead Celebration

Several weeks of coordination, guided by the leadership of Angie Arzili and the help of several volunteer parents, gave way to the Day of the Dead exhibition. The altars, skulls, llamas and essays created by our students in kindergarten through 5th grade were displayed in a colorful sea of flowers that filled the living auditorium.



EL Panda Readers

October was the second month in which ELAC coordinated the presence of an author at the school. During this visit, the writer, Angela Cervantes spoke with students about her experience with language and being bilingual, led a workshop for 3rd, 4th, and 5th students using sections of one of her books, answered questions and autograph books.



Monthly Recipe: Zucchini Bread

By Ana Maria Diaz Baker

Ingredients

- 2 ½ cup flour
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 2 butter bars (8oz / 250g) (room temp) cut into cubes
- 1 egg yolk
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tsp vanilla

Preparation:

In a bowl beat butter and sugar. Add the yolk and vanilla, continue beating until the mixture is smooth. Add flour, salt and mix until smooth. Form a ball and wrap it in plastic, then refrigerate for 30 minutes. Pre schedule the oven to 350°F. Divide the dough into half. Stretch the dough on a flat, floured surface with the help of a roll (1 / 4in). Cut with favorite cookie mold. Bake for 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool. Decorate them to taste and enjoy!



ELAC Board: **President:** Lorena Yépez Hernández, **Vice-President:** Patricia García, **Secretary:** Martha Castañeda, **Parlamentarian:** Sebastián Andrés Hernández, **Advisory Group:** Guadalupe Catalán, Susan Wong, Ana Maria Diaz Baker and Ana Vazquez.

Questions? / Suggestions? This newsletter is produced by ELAC for the San Rafael Elementary School community. We want to hear from you. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us. In person, stop by the main office. By telephone, call (626) 396-5790. By e-mail: HernandezL@runbox.com.