



EL Panda Newsletter



Reclassification Breakfast



This past May 2016, ELAC celebrated 16 students who were reclassified from English Learners (ELs) to Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEPs) students. These students met the four requirements needed by the state of California to be reclassified and reach this important achievement. It is the first time our school reclassifies all students who passed the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). This is thanks to the support of our Principal, Mr. Ramirez, Ms. Silvia and Ms. Lourdes and all our teachers. It is important to mention that it is due to the support of our parents. Thanks to you and your involvement we have identified areas where we can improve as a school and district. With these new found tools we are able to better support our students. This event and results have set high expectations for the coming 2016-2017 school year. It is a great triumph for the students, their parents and our community.

Events

- Mon - Fri 9/12 – 9/16**
Book Fair
- Thursday, 9/15/16 6pm**
Back to School
- Monday, 9/19/16 @630pm**
DELAC Meeting (119 W. Palm St. Altadena, CA 91001)
- Tuesday, 9/20/16 @2:30pm**
School Site Council (Room # 13)
- Thursday, 9/29/16**
Picture Day
- Mon - Thrs 10/10 – 10/13**
Pumpkin Patch
- Friday, 10/8/16 @4pm**
Fall Festival
- Wednesday, 10/12/16 @6pm**
ELAC Meeting
- Thursday, 10/13/16 @6pm**
PTA Meeting

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Who is an EL Student?

An English learner (EL) student is one whose primary language at home is not English. When enrolling your child to PUSD you had to answer a series of questions, including what was the main language spoken at home. If you answered that it was any language other than English, you student will have to take a test at the beginning of the school year to measure their English proficiency. If your student passes the exam in kindergarten, s/he automatically becomes an Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP). If the student does not pass the exam, the student will have other opportunities to take it during the academic career, but only once during the school year. If your child passes the exam in other grades (1st-12), s/he will

also have to meet other requirements. These include passing the Pasadena Unified School District test for students (Cont.) (Cont.) in that particular grade, satisfactory grades and parental approval. This process is very thorough and we will talk about it throughout the school year to make sure we answer all your questions.

San Bernardo, Durango, México

By Ingrid Sanchez



Have you ever gone on holiday to a place where there are no beaches, no restaurants, and no people? I was afraid that my children, Cruz (6 years) and Paolina (9 years) were going to have a horrible time! But I was wrong, they loved it!

San Bernardo is the village where my father-in-law was born. Can you guess his name? Bernardo! Many generations of his family descends from this town of less than 800 inhabitants. Unfortunately, he is the only person in his family who still has a house there. Grandfather Bernardo decided to make a retirement house here about 30 years ago. Unfortunately, he has not enjoyed this house because the town went through a period of a lot of violence due to territorial drug cartel fights.

Since things have calmed in recent years, my father-in-law was keen for us to get to know his village. The kids loved watching the variety of animals that roam free on the streets. Every day we saw pigs, cows with their calves, and horses with their POTRILLOS (A new word we learned!) roam the streets. At night we enjoyed watching the bats and fireflies. We also enjoyed just sitting and appreciating nature as we swayed in hammocks hung in the courtyard of the house.



Since there was not much to do in this town, the daily routine included going to the river or creek for fishing or to freshen up. In the evenings it was fun to visit small shops in search of the best treats and sit on the benches chatting with local residents. I spend most of my time looking and taking pictures of rare insects. My favorite thing was being away from the city because we had no cell service or Wi-Fi, TV channels or radio!

Letter from the Language Assessment & Development Department (LADD) Regarding Reclassification

At the end of the school year 2015-2016, the San Rafael ELAC requested to the Pasadena School District to consider a notification to parents of EL students explaining the reason why the student was classified as an EL student and why the student had not been reclassified. The District listened to us, took our recommendations and sent a letter this summer. Here is a section of the letter. If you have any questions, you can call the LADD office at the number listed at the bottom of this page.

The following chart shows the minimum criteria for reclassification and your child's score:

Criteria	Minimum Score Required	Your Child's Score
1. CELDT	Overall: 4-5	3
	Listening: 3-5	3
	Speaking: 3-5	3
	Reading: 3-5	2
	Writing: 3-5	2
2. English Language Arts Trimester Marks or Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)	ELA Trimester Marks: Grades 1-2: Proficient Grades 3-5: Basic	Basic
	DIBELS: Benchmark	
3. English Language Arts Reading & Writing Grade on Report Card	Passing Grade Grade 1: Proficient Grades 2-5: Basic	Please see report card

The LADD office will be offering free services for all of our families to help support their children academically.

- Tutoring for students that need additional assistance
- Parent support workshops for understanding how to guide your child through the EL program
- Adult ESL classes for EL parents to help them access school in support of their children.

As always, our office is here to provide any support that you might need for your child. Please feel free to contact us at (626) 396-3600 x88280 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support in your child's education and future.

Together We Make Change

By Lorena Yopez Hernandez



Hello, Parents! My name is Lorena Yépez Hernández and I am proud to serve as Chair of the English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) of San Rafael. My family includes my husband Sebastian and our two children, Ximena (2nd grade) and Xavier (Kinder). We are very happy to be able to donate our time to our school. As we begin the school year, we are eager to work with you. We hope you will join us to our ELAC meetings, PTA, Annual Fund, School Site Council, and the African American Parent Council. Working together with all our talents we can offer a better future to our children. If you only have an hour or two a week, maybe you can help in your child's classroom. Simply ask the teacher about how you can help. It's that easy! Our school and our children need you. Together, we all win.

EL Panda Readers

By Ana Maria Diaz Baker



Starting with the program "EL Panda Readers", Kindergarten and First Grade students were the first to participate in a reading with the writer Antoinette Portis. They had the opportunity to hear the stories, "Best Prints" and "Not a Box" directly read by the author. They also they asked questions such as: When did you write? What was your first book? How do I put the whole book together? It was a unique experience for children. ELAC held a lottery among all students in the school and there were 7 winners that received personalized autographed books.

ELAC Board: **President:** Lorena Yépez Hernández, **Vice-President:** Patricia García, **Secretary:** Martha Castañeda, **Parliamentarian:** Sebastián Andrés Hernández, **Advisory Group:** Guadalupe Catalán y Susan Wong

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.