Bienvenidos a todos los que forman parte de la comunidad de las International Spanish Academies al nuevo número de nuestro boletín ISA.

Esta edición se abre con la sección de Noticias de la Consejería y una breve descripción de la principal novedad: una revisión en profundidad del programa y las medidas que se van a poner en marcha para apostar de forma decidida por la calidad de los centros ISA a partir del próximo curso escolar y de cara al futuro.

El boletín continúa con un artículo sobre la iniciativa de la Consejería para llevar una muestra de obras del Museo del Prado a las ISA, coincidiendo con el 200 aniversario de nuestro principal museo.

Seguidamente, varias páginas dan ejemplos de las actividades que algunas de nuestras ISA llevan a cabo este curso. Y finalmente, una sección de artículos de interés y de recursos educativos para la enseñanza en español.

Para terminar, animamos a todas aquellas personas que están vinculadas a la extraordinaria labor educativa que las escuelas ISA llevan a cabo todos los días, a unirse a la campaña de la Consejería en las redes sociales: “Orgullosos de ser ISA”. Si no lo has hecho todavía, este es el momento de unirse a nuestras redes: Facebook  Twitter  Instagram

¡Seguimos en contacto!

Maria José Fabre González
Counselor of Education for the USA and Canada
Embassy of Spain

Welcome to all those who make up our International Spanish Academy community to a new issue of our ISA newsletter.

This issue opens with the “From the Spanish Education Office” section and a brief description of our main initiative: an in-depth review of the program and the measures that, starting next school year, will be put in place to steer the ISA network decisively towards excellence in bilingual education.

The newsletter continues with an article about the initiative of the Spanish Education Office to take a sample of important works from the Prado Museum to ISA schools, coinciding with the 200th anniversary of our most famous museum.

After this, several pages showcase some of the activities that our ISA schools have been carrying out during this school year, followed by a section dedicated to articles of interest and to educational resources for teaching in Spanish.

Finally, we encourage everybody who is part of the extraordinary educational community of ISA schools to join the Spanish Education Office campaign on our social networks: ’Proud to be ISA”. If you have not done so yet, now is the time to join our networks: Facebook  Twitter  Instagram

Keep in touch!
After almost two decades, the International Spanish Academies (ISA), our common project, have come of age and is now a consolidated program we can all be proud of. The initial pilot stage goes back to the first years of this century, when trailblazing initiatives were implemented in Alberta (Canada), Illinois, Indiana and Florida. Having accumulated experience along the way, we are all now in a better position to envision what this now fully-matured program is and should be like, in order to achieve excellence in bilingualism, biliteracy and multiculturalism.

As a symbolic celebration of its coming of age, we are glad to announce that we are currently working on a more precise and accurate definition of the quality of the program, its goals, requirements and standards, so that the 2019-2020 school year will bring about innovations and proposals that we hope are welcomed and embraced.

Most of the proposed innovations will be described in a document called Guía de incorporación y permanencia, a manual providing instructions and guidance to both candidate and member schools who want to either join or stay in the ISA program and its network. Alongside the benefits of belonging to the program, the guide will describe the entry requirements to be met by all partner schools, and the quality goals that the ISA would like to strive for over the coming years (continue reading)
The Prado Museum, Spain’s crowning glory and one of the world’s most notable museums, is celebrating 200 years since its opening with a variety of partnerships.

The Education Office of Spain in the United States and Canada is proud to present an activity aimed at the International Spanish Academies: thanks to an agreement with the Prado Museum and the American Friends of the Prado Museum, they have designed a traveling exhibition of a selection of 20 masterpiece reproductions on canvas curated by the Museum. It will visit several ISAs for a limited period of time, enabling students, teachers and parents to participate in a variety of activities, such as guided tours or interpretations of the works selected by the students.

This spring, the Prado exhibition will visit ISA schools in Alberta, Utah, Florida and Indiana. The hosting institutions are encouraged to carry out activities addressed to all the members of their educational community, thus highlighting the connection of the ISA Project with the culture and art of Spain.

Among the reproductions selected, there are works by Rafael, Tiziano, Tintoretto, Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Goya, Velazquez and Zurbaran. If you want to know the specific pieces that make up the exhibition, all you have to do is click here.

The Education Office of Spain is really thrilled with this initiative and hopes to be able to reach out to as many schools as possible as this project is not limited to this school year. In our next issue we will keep you posted and share some of the ideas the hosting schools have come up with to make the most of this excellent opportunity.
Asómate a lo que hacen nuestras escuelas por todo el país

Find out about some of the fun activities at New Horizons Elementary (Florida), and the active role that Spanish Visiting Teachers play in the school.

Kindergarten students at Theodore Potter School 74 (Indiana) prepared a project on the Spanish flag. They investigated the meaning of each symbol and learnt about the differences between the American and Spanish flags.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District (California) welcomes their new Spanish language assistant Sara Ruiz Ibañez!

Laguna Hills High School students (SVUSD, California) proudly display their DELE certificates.
Students and teachers at John I. Leonard High School (Florida) share with us two very interesting initiatives they are implementing: their Club Casa de las Americas promotes Spanish in their community, while their Peer Mentoring Program helps new students who need help with their English.

Also, their school mural is evidence of the artistic talent of their students and portrays their pride in their school and the Spanish academy.

Second Graders at International School of Brooklyn (NY) wrote and illustrated their own original stories in Spanish. They learned new reading and writing tools, wrote two drafts of their story, and self-published their own original book. They were so proud of their work that they read their stories to other classes. Click here to see some samples!

What a thrill to have had Jancho Henangómez of the Denver Nuggets in our ISA International School of Denver (Colorado) last February! Find out more here.

Magellan School (Texas) welcomes their Mexican guests. Link to article
In the Fall, the ISA program at Bryan Station Middle School in Lexington (Kentucky) hosted a Cultures Fair to showcase a variety of aspects of Spanish speaking countries around the world. Families from the community learned about historical figures, ate delicious foods, watched traditional dances and played games from represented countries.

Students in the Spanish track in Grades 6, 9 and 10 of the International School of Indiana spent at least a week in March on a student exchange trip to a country where Spanish is spoken. This year they visited Chile, Spain and Costa Rica.

On February 21, the fourth and fifth grade students at Maxwell Elementary School in Lexington (Kentucky) took a trip to Spain, visiting significant sites in Madrid, Segovia, Toledo, Sevilla, Granada, Malaga and more. Here our ISA students learn about Spanish history by visiting the Monastery of El Escorial.

Students from the ISA program at The Academies at Bryan Station High School in Lexington (Kentucky) took a trip to Spain, visiting significant sites in Madrid, Segovia, Toledo, Sevilla, Granada, Malaga and more. Here our ISA students learn about Spanish history by visiting the Monastery of El Escorial.

Countries proposed. 22 of their projects were selected to represent the school at the state language competition, KWLA Showcase. Maxwell won 17 of the 22 possible awards. Congratulations!
¿QUÉ ESTÁN HACIENDO NUESTRAS ESCUELAS ISA?

Read this article about Wakefield High School (Virginia): the end of the road to language immersion.

At Berkshire Elementary (Florida) a project connects children across the ocean: find out about it here.

Find out about the bilingual radio station at St Margaret School in Calgary (CAN) here.

ARTÍCULOS DE INTERÉS

Read how Miami’s Coral Way School paved the way for bilingual Education in the US.

Scientific evidence shows that bilingual people are less prone to developing Alzheimer’s – just another good reason for people to take up Spanish!

Reyna Grande tells the story of how she lost her mother tongue, Spanish, and the frustration she feels now. Her account is a good example of how many Hispanic immigrants felt upon their arrival in the US.
Since 2007, Janet Hart, founder of The Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies (CALPT), one of the institutions on the cutting edge of learning tools, has been compiling a yearly list of the essential tools for learning based on the results of a survey open to educators and entrepreneurs. You only need to click here to find some that can be applied to the Spanish classroom.

Have you ever considered using the flipped classroom approach? This link includes bibliography, YouTube channels and some expert tips so you won't find this task daunting.

The Cervantes Institute offers an interesting compilation of resources focused on the didactics for teaching Spanish, ranging from project-based learning to the communicative approach.

Según nos cuenta el propio blog, la Biblioteca Digital Siglo XXI pone al alcance de los usuarios enlaces a "diversidad de libros digitales publicados legalmente por diversos organismos e instituciones". Se trata de una colección de hipervínculos, presentados de manera atractiva, a numerosos textos escritos en español o traducidos a nuestra lengua. Encontramos entre ellos cuentos infantiles, relatos, poemas, teatro, adivinanzas, textos sobre arte, filosofía... Además, el blog nos ofrece tags para hacer búsquedas por autores, géneros, edades de los lectores, materias, niveles del sistema educativo español... ¡Muy interesante!
La vida es puro teatro: la clase de español, también.

“Teatroteca” is a resource that may help you immensely if you are thinking of integrating drama in your teaching. It is a digital library where, once you have signed up, you will be able to borrow recordings of plays online. This is possible thanks to the Centro de Documentación Teatral, an institution which is under the umbrella of the Spanish Ministry of Education.

You don’t know how to put it into practice? Don’t worry, we can help you by means of different resources which have useful tips on how to use drama in the classroom.

For example, in 2013 Vanessa Hidalgo Martín published “Interacción estratégica: la enseñanza de español a través de escenarios”, one of the papers presented at the “I Congreso Internacional de Didáctica de Español como Lengua Extranjera” hosted by the Instituto Cervantes in Budapest (Hungary).

If you still find the idea of using a play in your class daunting, “Arriba el telón: enseñar teatro y enseñar desde el teatro. Propuestas didácticas para trabajar en clase de español” is another useful document you might want to resort to.

Not sure what play to use? Here’s a compilation of humorous theatricals which contain activities that you may find interesting: “Antología de textos teatrales de humor para el aula de ELE”

All the resources that we are presenting to you here are available thanks to the Spanish Ministry of Education and the Instituto Cervantes!
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