

Accents on Language!

International Languages Educators' Association of Ontario



Message from the ILEA Executive Director

Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2010 ILEA newsletter: Accents on Language. This season's newsletter offers you more practical ideas for the classroom and also gives you insight into the various happenings and events across the province of Ontario pertaining to the field of international language teaching and learning. This issue acts as a springboard from the last issue in the area of storytelling by offering some further tips on oral storytelling approaches. To continue our focus on literacy-enhancing approaches, one of the story templates that gives learners a chance to construct short stories makes use of a graphic organizer – a chart is used in this issue. The other suggestion is the use of a 'whispering story' – this a fun, calm but energetic activity that gets learners to read out pieces of stories to themselves, pass it on to others and then identify the correct strip of the story from a pile, thus recreating what was understood from the original text. Try doing this activity with hand-held digital recorders so that students can hear their combined stories. It is possible to have different teams work with different stories and then share with each other.

Stories have always been a regular theme in language teaching and learning as all of us have stories to tell and they are often the optimal, practical and personally relevant method for us to bring language to life for our learners and ourselves. In this issue you will also get to meet our ILEA Chair – Fani Papadopoulos who is a Program Manager for International Languages with the Toronto District School Board – the largest provider of IL programs within Canada. Fani was recently awarded for her work in the field – please read the article about her in this issue.

As 2010 starts, we want to assure you that the ILEA Executive have never been busier. Recently the Executive met in order to make plans for our association's future including the development of our next three-year strategic plan. More details will follow in future issues. We hope that you will continue to support and involve others in contributing to our language association to make this field stronger and larger. We hope that your resolutions for 2010 will include committing to helping us bring more recognition and attention to our profession.

All the best for 2010!

Constantine Ioannou

ILEA Ontario Board of Directors

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ILEA Updates

- ILEA's first international institutional member – LINGUAMON of Barcelona, Spain has joined. This is a Centre for Languages in Barcelona. Constantine Ioannou recently attended a conference by the association where ILEA's four pillars were referenced as to the value of multilingualism. The province of Catalonia in Spain is trying to implement a heritage language program similar to that of Ontario.
- Senator Mobina Jaffer met with ILEA Executive members in Ottawa as well as at events by the CLA (Canadian Languages Association) where ILEA members were present as CLA's Ontario affiliate. Senator Jaffer is very interested in the idea of a multilingual vision for Canada.
- Maria Makrakis (Chair Elect) presented at the SOHL (Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages) Conference in Saskatoon. Constantine Ioannou presented on ILEA's behalf a multiple weekend course for IHLA (International and Heritage Languages Association) in Edmonton on assessment practices with a literacy focus. Constantine also presented a workshop on storytelling in Kitchener.
- ILEA members have been consulted on the revision of the curriculum guidelines for International Languages that are in the process of revision and will be consulted on the revision of the resource guide for elementary programs in International Languages.
- ILEA will be a program advisor for a symposium on multilingualism in October 2010 – Language Expo to take place in Toronto.
www.languageexpo.ca

We are on the WEB at
www.ilea.ca

Global Connections

China — Canada School Connections

ILEA executives were among many guests, including trustees, directors, senior officials and principals from the GTA and vicinity who took part in the October 22nd Dinner Conference organized by the Education Office of the Consulate General of China in Toronto and the Ontario Principals' Council.

The focus of this event was to share perspectives on international education and Chinese language teaching in Ontario schools.

Following a 10 course meal the first official speaker, Taoying Zhu, Consul General of China in Toronto discussed in length historically good Canada-China relations in the area of economy and education. China has made a tremendous progress on the international arena. Canada is one of the first destinations for Chinese students but there is still a lot to be done for promoting Chinese language in our own public schools. This has indeed been a regular concern for ILEA—that international students come to Canada for language and culture learning, but Canadian students are very limited in their learning of languages and overseas cultures.

Besides addressing Canadian trade with China, the next guest speaker, Mrs. Sarah Kutulakos, Executive Director of CCBC, emphasized that Western cultures still need to take more seriously the worlds' biggest civilization. Some of the provinces in Canada are

already on the ball. Since 1980 there are 12 bilingual Chinese schools in Alberta. There is a chance that, with the steady support from Confucius Institute, Ontario schools can learn from the good practices of others in regards to the Chinese language.

It was interesting to learn from the last speaker, Vivien Stewart, Senior Advisor for President of Asia Society (USA) that there is no national policy on International Languages Programs in USA.

Besides the fact that China is America's biggest trading partner, Americans became very complacent in learning other languages. However, the shift in thinking has started already because of grass root efforts on a school-by-school basis. There was also a word of caution that there is a difference between starting a program and having an effective program. Language Programs should be first of all about creating sustainable programs with qualified teachers, best practices and rich resources. More on learning Chinese in American schools can be found on the following website: www.AsiaSociety.org/Chinese.

In conclusion it was said that Chinese Language Program in public schools can create a multitude of opportunities for our own students. Infusing Chinese language and culture into our system will take us into shared future.

Submitted by Lilianna Sosnowski



ILEA and other provincial association that deal with language teaching and learning met in both Saskatoon and Calgary in 2009. On hand to meet with affiliates of the CLA (Canadian Languages Association) was Senator Mobina Jaffer. ILEA representatives have also met with Senator Jaffer who has as strong interest in multilingualism.

Wishing Kathleen Wynne well.

ILEA Executive members were invited once again to an open house event hosted by the Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne on January, 24, 2010. We are now aware that due to cabinet shuffles, Kathleen Wynne will no longer have the portfolio of Education. We wish her well and ILEA will always consider her as an attentive and committed educator wherever she goes!



Meet your ILEA Chair

Fani arrived in Canada in 1984 as an immigrant from Greece. Since then, her empathy for newcomers from all countries has been demonstrated repeatedly in her personal and professional life. As a new immigrant settling in Toronto, she became an active volunteer – first as a radio announcer on Greek community radio, then as a volunteer in an elementary school. This led to a remarkable career in teaching, promoting and managing international languages programs.

Fani is a committed and passionate advocate for multiculturalism and intercultural education. She works hard at building bridges among the disparate communities that make up Toronto. Her tireless work with students, parents, community groups, school trustees and staff, and with consuls of various governments, has helped make the Toronto District School Board one of the largest and most successful providers of International Languages Programs in the world. It is in large part because of Fani's work that the TDSB recently won the prestigious Carl Bertelsmann Award for outstanding commitment to equity in education. The prize honours exemplary work in fostering integration and promoting equal opportunity in education. One of the factors that impressed the Jury for the international award was that many TDSB students have access to language learning in their first language throughout their education.

It is Fani's passion and her life's work to:

- bring communities together while celebrating diversity;
- ensure that newcomers feel welcome, are heard and are accepted, and know there is a place for their language, customs and culture;
- provide students with language and culture classes where they can see themselves and their background reflected in the curriculum;
- encourage students to develop an appreciation and sensitivity to the cultural diversity within Toronto and Canada;
- involve parents and community groups in promoting cross cultural integration;
- work with consuls of various governments to secure program support, innovative teaching materials and provide professional development opportunities for instructors.

It is not one project or a handful of events that define Fani's commitment to newcomers and their children. It is her many years of dedicated service of promoting language and culture to the Toronto communities – a service which is fuelled by a deep understanding that successful integration is based on appreciating and celebrating diversity. Here is a brief list of some of the events initiated by Fani:

- Hold My Hand, a spectacular tribute to the Olympic Games 2004 held at the Herbert H. Carnegie Centennial Arena in north Toronto. More than 1,400 students came together to have fun. In a celebration of tolerance and racial harmony, 240 dancers from 8 traditional dance groups performed in national costumes from countries including Serbia, Romania, Greece, Korea, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Cyprus and China;
- Bringing Communities Together Dinner Gala at Banquet at Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre 2005. This event was a celebration of culture through music, song and dance by students from a variety of cultural backgrounds including Tamil, Greek, Portuguese, Chinese and Serbian;
- Village of the World, ILE 30th Anniversary 2007, was held at Scarborough Civic Centre. An audience of 2500 enjoyed learning about the culture and customs of other countries through workshops, displays, games, storytelling and performances.



Fani's commitment to newcomer families and her achievements in promoting cross-cultural understanding is evident in the many lives that have been enriched by her dedication and compassion. Her hard work and leadership continues to inspire her peers and the fruits of her labour resonate throughout many Toronto communities. She is a champion of multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue. Her passion is helping newcomer families who have left homes, families and friends behind, gain a sense of belonging in their new home without losing their connection and pride in their heritage and spoken languages. For these reasons, Fani Papadopoulos is a worthy nominee for The Newcomer Champion Award.



IL Credit Matters

IL CREDIT CURRICULUM REVISION begins!
Mauro Aristegui and Maria Makrakis represented ILEA along with representatives of other language associations at a Ministry meeting to discuss the initial process for revising the international language curriculum guideline for the secondary program.

Oral Storytelling Templates

Small Steps: Somebody Stories

Students often need some simple structures and templates in order to organize small chunks for future storytelling opportunities. Try using key chars to organize more creative language use among students. See the examples below

<i>Somebody...</i>	<i>wanted.....</i>	<i>BUT</i>	<i>SO.....</i>



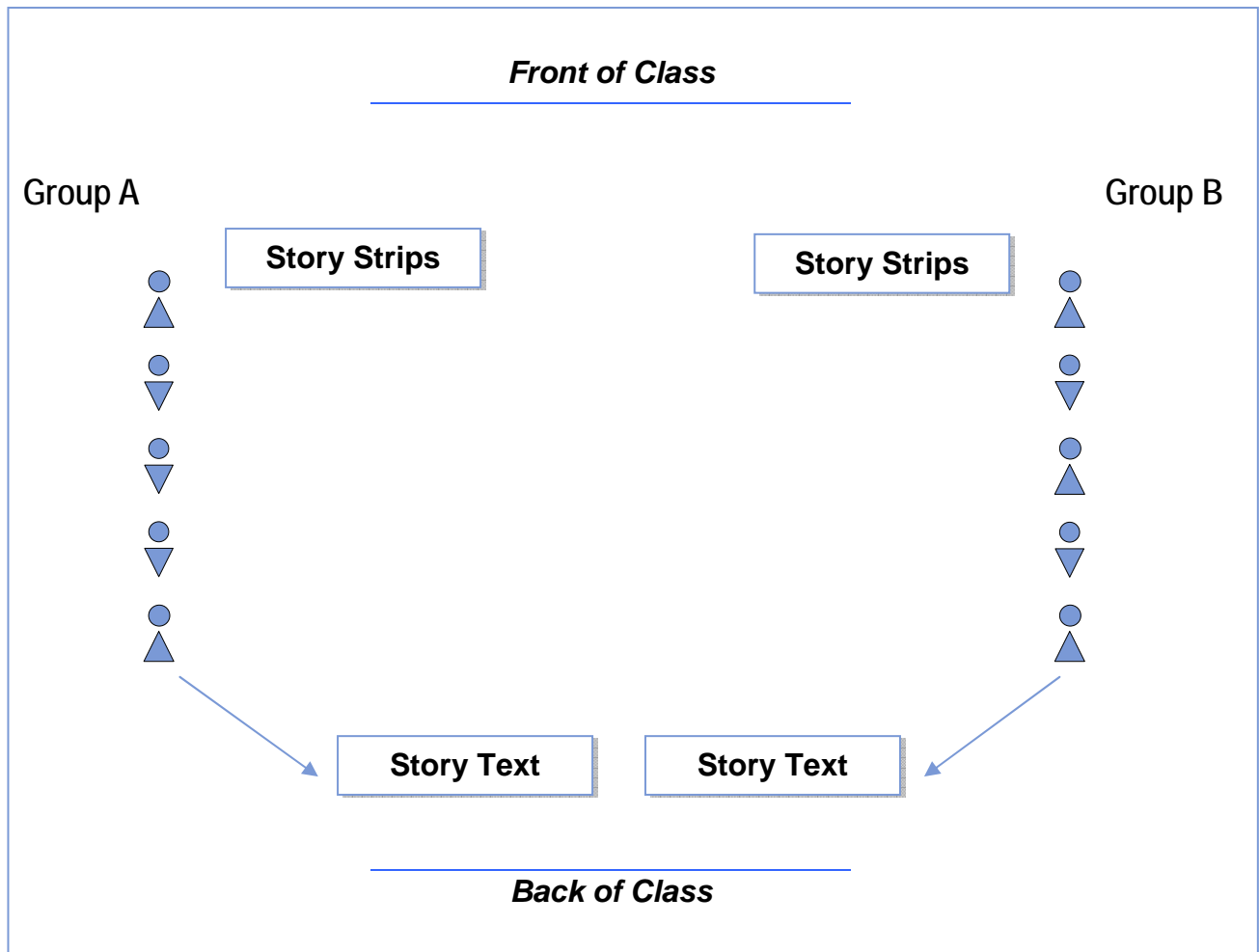
- *Pick a character. You can use their profession or not in this story.*
- *Think about something this character wanted to do or planned to do.*
- *Decide on an obstacle or conflict that stopped this character from doing what was planned.*
- *State what the character did in the end due to the conflict.*

Oral Storytelling Templates

Whispering Story.....



1. Line up with fellow team member
2. Last one in line goes to the story posted in the BACK of the classroom. Reads the first portion of the story carefully and remembers it. Checks off that portion with a coloured marker/highlighter. Goes to the person s/he was standing beside (still near the BACK) of the line until all have heard it.
3. The last person to hear the portion of the story goes to the FRONT of the classroom to find the SAME portion from a mixed up order. Finds it and tapes it up on the wall/board.
4. This same person runs to the BACK of the classroom and starts the chain of events by reading the second portion of the story and whispering onwards.
5. An alternative to posting is for students to actually SAY the part of the story one by one in a digital recorder instead of posting their messages.



For your Classroom

Happy Lunar New Year!! This year is the year of the TIGER!

The tiger represents people born in the years: 1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010.
Characteristics associated with the TIGER: *lively, brave, courageous, lucky, engaging, alert, stubborn, vain.*



Get information on the characteristics of each animal in the zodiac. Pictures of the animals are included here. Ask students to use adjectives that describe themselves BEFORE they read information about the animal that is associated with their year of birth. Provide them with adjectives that describe their sign. Then have them comment on whether they share that characteristic or not and to give examples of how the characteristics relate or do not relate.

Adjectives that describe me:

Adjectives that describe the animal that represents my year of birth:

These are characteristics that we have in common, including why I feel that these adjectives can describe me.

Adjectives	These adjectives can be used to describe me because.....

These are characteristics that we do NOT have in common, including why I feel that these adjectives do NOT describe me:

Adjectives	These adjectives do NOT describe me because.....

For your Classroom

Springboard Pictures

1. Look at the picture below that is in the middle. Focus only on that picture. List key vocabulary of things that you see or think of based ONLY on this picture.
4. Have your partner make a COMMENTARY and a QUESTION to you. Respond and answer.
2. Decide what happened beforehand.
5. Conclude your story.
3. Explain to a partner.
6. Fill in the columns with your sentences.

BEFOREHAND	<i>What's Happening??!!!</i>	AFTERWARDS
	<div style="border: 1px solid #4a7ebb; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <i>Put key vocabulary here:</i> </div>	

Resolution Activity

For any New Year celebration, discuss the idea of making resolutions with learners. You may also consider asking students to make objectives for their personal lives but also for their own language learning for 2010.

Make a list here as to what five things you want to do in 2010 – these are your resolutions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Now fill in the chart below:

REASON <small>why I need a change</small>	RESOLUTION <small>what my change will be</small>	OUTCOME <small>what I expect will happen with change</small>

ILEA Calendar



ILEA is planning to produce a calendar promoting language learning for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

It will be illustrated with children's art.

Please send us the most interesting drawings created by children in your classrooms not later than May 1, 2010. An ILEA Committee will decide on the pieces for inclusion.

Suggested themes – *peace, culture, nature, family...*

Scanned art works, high resolution (preferably 300 dpi) images in JPG or TIF format could be emailed to:

irina.khetsouriani@ilea.ca OR

Mail original drawings (preferably on letter size paper) to:

ILEA

25 Kimberwick Crescent
Ottawa, ON K1V 1K6

ILEA members submitting 5 or more drawings will be sent a free hard copy of the calendar



2010 - INTERNATIONAL YEAR

for the RAPPROCHEMENT of CULTURES

One of the major aims of the Year will be to demonstrate the beneficial effects of cultural diversity recognizing the importance of transfers and exchanges between cultures through implicit or explicit dialogue that underlines how all cultures and civilizations are interlinked and contribute to the progress of humankind.

Memberships

Institutional

Institutional members are appointed by their school boards to attend meetings. Any school board in the Province of Ontario interested in sending a representative to the meetings may do so. Members hold a supervisory or administrative position with regard to the program, and have the authority to discuss policy and procedures on behalf of their respective school boards.

Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Faculties of Education and other associations are invited to meetings to address relevant issues. Embassies, Consulates and travel or exchange organizations often also become members.

Individual

Membership opportunities have been extended to individual instructors, teachers and others. ILEA invites all educators to join in order to promote the importance of IL education and establish good program practices for programs across Ontario.

Membership fees will support the work of the association and will include two emailed news bulletins relevant to language teaching. Memberships can be obtained by using the membership form available on ILEA's website (www.ilea.ca). Check the "Resources" link too.

We look forward to seeing individual educator memberships from all school boards in Ontario. Remember, ILEA works because of volunteers so each membership is important to building our profession.

Accents on Language!

This is our tenth newsletter. We welcome your feedback.

Please email us at info@ilea.ca.

Look for our next newsletter in the Fall of 2010!

