



# THE ESOL EDGE FOR TEACHERS

August, 2006

English for Speakers of Other Languages, Duval County Public Schools

Have a good school year!

تمنى لكم سنة دراسية ناجحة

¡Que tengan un buen año escolar! İYİ SENELER!

Harinawang maging mabuti ang inyong pag-aral sa taong ito.

ZELIMO VAM SRETNU I USPJESNU NOVU SKOLSKU GODINU !

Успехов в учебном году!

PASE YOU BON ANE LEKOL!

Although you may not be quite ready to make the transition from the laidback (or at least different) days of summer vacation to the hectic first day of school, once you say hello to the friends you haven't seen for two months, start arranging the classroom, and find out what is new and what isn't, the curiosity about new students and speculation about the new class begins. "Where are the children from this year?" (As well as, "Where are the books I ordered?") "What new countries will be represented?" "Will I be able to teach them all they need to know?" Many things will be familiar, but you can be sure that this year is going to be different from all the others. It is an exciting time!

Best wishes for a happy, exciting, and successful school year!

All of us at the ESOL office,

Brenda, Edisa, Elaine, Estrella, Joyce, June, Lucy, Mike, Nancy, Pat, Ruth, Sandi, Shifa, Valentina, and Zaida

( Call 390-2202 if you need us.)

## Welcome and Best Wishes to Landmark Middle School!

We are happy to welcome Landmark Middle as the newest ESOL Center.

We are sure they will have an exciting and successful year.



## Are you using TRANSACT?

Provides a library of documents (registration forms, free lunch forms, Code of Conduct, etc.) for home-school communication in 22 languages.

Go to the website

[www.transact.com](http://www.transact.com)

# ESOL + Intensive Reading = Success

ESOL students who were in Intensive Reading at Fletcher Middle received good news when the FCAT results came back in May:

1 out of 2 sixth graders, 8 out of 10 seventh graders, and 9 out of 11 eighth graders passed the FCAT! Of those 22 students, six had been in the program less than two years. There were six with a score of three and one with a score of four!

The ESOL/Intensive Reading teacher, Maridell Bagnol gives full credit to the Intensive Reading program, the materials, and Pat Melvin's teacher training. Ms. Bagnol was finishing the requirements for her reading certification at the same time as the training for the Intensive reading. "For years I had been saying, I know how to teach vocabulary and comprehension, but something I don't know about is actually teaching kids how to read. I found all that I did not know in the reading certification and the Intensive Reading training."

She also praises the students' attitude and efforts. Assessments in phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension were used to group the students according to their instructional needs. Part of the rituals and routines included the provision that, when students thought they had mastered a particular skill, they could pull the assessment for that skill, take it, and grade it. They would then look at the progression chart and tell Ms. Bagnol where they thought they should go next. She discussed the results with individual students and they decided together whether they needed more remediation or were ready to go to the next level. Ms. Bagnol says, "Student buy-in is critical if this type of arrangement is to work without wasted or idle time. I'm happy to say the students were champs in this regard."

Ms. Bagnol feels fortunate to have had the support of everyone involved.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

by

Pat Randall

ESOL Resource Teacher / Refugee Advocate

**ESOL Kick-off/CELLA**

**for all ESOL teachers**

**Thursday, August 3, 2006**

**Secondary - 7:30-11:30A.M.**

**Elementary-12:00-4:0P.M.**

**DuPont Middle School Media Center**

**ESOL Para Welcome Back Day**

**Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**8:30-11:30 A.M.**

**The Schultz Center**

**4019 Boulevard Center Dr.**

**CELLA Training**

**for principals, school test**

**coordinators and school test**

**administrators**

**Throughout August and**

**September**

**(Schedule to be announced)**

**(CELLA testing will be**

**September 11 - 26.)**

## Brenda's Corner . . . . .

Growth and change seem to be the key words in ESOL! An important change that occurred this summer is that all new language learners will be under one umbrella. We are now the Department of English for Speakers of Other Languages and World Languages! As always, our goal is to provide high-quality language programs for our students.

This fall we are very happy to welcome Landmark Middle School as the newest ESOL center school in the county. Linda Rogers, Bill Danner, Iyana Pickard and all of the Landmark staff will be a great addition to the program.

In addition to the changes in the department, our ESOL student population, and teaching and paraprofessional staffs continue to grow, with another anticipated 8% growth for the 2006-2007 school year.

The big news in testing is the CELLA, which will begin in September. The Cella will be used to establish and track language proficiency levels of ELLs in Florida. One result of the initial administration will be to establish cut-off scores and to redefine "Limited English Proficient" in Florida. Principals, Administrators, test coordinators and test administrators will be trained in August. This will be the second largest secure test, after FCAT, in Florida. Stay tuned!

Of course, your ELL students, especially those who are entering an American school for the first time, face the most changes and challenges this year. As you prepare for your students' return on the first day, remember that we all share the common goals of language acquisition and academic success. We in the ESOL office are ready to support you with all available resources.

It is our hope that you have had a wonderful summer, filled with restful days and exciting travels.

We are looking forward to a great school year,

*Brenda*

### **The ESOL Edge for Parents Still Needs YOU!**

The families of our students should know about the great things you are doing in your schools and classrooms. It's easy to accomplish -- just read the 'Intensive Reading' and the 'Southside' articles for examples!

The next ESOL Edge for Parents will be sent out to all of the ESOL families in Jacksonville in October, so you have at least a month to send in news about your projects, successes and activities. Just say what's happening ahead of time (or report the facts later), and I'll do the rest!

Please, call or write Elaine Gerger at the ESOL office.

390-2202 or 390-2485

[gergerl@educationcentral.org](mailto:gergerl@educationcentral.org)

### **ESOL Parent Leadership Council Update**

Like their children, many parents of ESOL students have a difficult time adjusting to their new culture. Often they don't have the confidence, knowledge, or time to assist their youngsters with school. The goal of the ESOL Parent Leadership Council is to help these parents understand and be active in their children's education. Last year 93 parents became members. We hope to triple that number in the coming months.

The first meetings of the PLC will be at Landmark Middle (9-14-06) and at West Riverside Elementary (9-19-06). In addition to a family-friendly and informative meeting, each of the parents will receive a "PLC Directory" which includes information about essential organizations, available services and cultural groups in Jacksonville. The directory comes in several languages.

You will receive PLC membership forms as well as an invitation to the September meetings. Please, send them home with your students and encourage your ESOL parents to participate.

## **Southside Middle Joins Hands With the World**



Ms. Judy Emami, ESOL teacher, serves visitors at Southside Middle's International Festival. Behind her is an ESOL parent and a very contented little brother.

On May 18, the students and teachers of Southside Middle School shared their cultural and ethnic richness with the community in the First Annual International Festival.

Visitors were greeted by banners and pictures as they went into the cafeteria where the stage was decorated with country flags and a banner that read, "Joining Hands with the World Neighborhood". The cultures of several areas of the world were displayed on tables around the room. Eight restaurants and several families provided Arabic, Korean, Spanish, Chinese, Italian and American food which could be obtained with a 'Food Passport'.

The entertainment continued the international theme with a poem, "From Border to Border", written and read by Fernando Diaz. The drama group presented "The Beginning of Life". Music and dancing were provided by the Southside Band of Gold, the Findley Family Jacksonville Steel Drummers, and Flamenco Expression.

The festival was organized by Guidance Counselor, Ms. Judy Sheklin, and the Southside Grant Writing and International Festival committees. This and other planned events are part of an effort made possible by a grant from The Jacksonville Community Foundation, to help 5<sup>th</sup> graders transition to middle school and to involve parents in the school.

**The ESOL Edge**  
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