



# EL PUENTE

SPANISH IMMERSION  
IN THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

## Noticias del Puente

### Comunicación entre el hogar y la escuela

(El Puente News: Communication between home and school)

April 22, 2009

#### Las Fechas Importantes (Important Dates)

##### May 2: Fiesta 2009

For more information about *Fiesta*, read our Community Connections section on page 2.

##### June 22-26: El Puente at Camp Geneva

##### Weather Plan:

For any El Puente activities that may be affected at the last minute by weather, we will notify you of any changes in plans via email.

##### Seamstress Doña Georgina

Our library volunteer read to our El Puente classes for the last time this past week, but we want to keep our connection to her strong! In addition to her love of reading, Doña Georgina enjoys sewing and can do alterations. You can contact her for sewing work by emailing her daughter at [poema.weller@latinooutreach.com](mailto:poema.weller@latinooutreach.com)

#### Bendiciones (Blessings)

God is really blessing our El Puente program with ways for our students to give to our community using the language skills they have acquired here at school. Please consider the summer opportunities we have listed below for you and your children to stay involved with the Spanish-speaking community around Holland and Zeeland. We feel so blessed to have so many Spanish language activities and connections to offer for the summer.

#### Reading to Migrant Worker Children

The Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance has organized a summer program for volunteers to read to the children of migrant workers. Tuesdays and Thursdays each week during the summer, volunteers can meet at the Diversity Alliance Office and travel out to the migrant camps on Holland's north side. The hour and a half program includes time to read to children ages 0-5, as well as have a snack and participate in games and social activities.

**To get involved:** The program begins May 5 and runs each Tuesday and Thursday in the summer through August 20<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Diversity Alliance Office in the Macatawa Resource Center at 665 136<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Holland at 6:00pm. The program ends around 7:30pm. For more information, contact Program Director Sarah Salguera at (616) 846-9074 or by email at [program@ethnicdiversity.org](mailto:program@ethnicdiversity.org). You can also visit the website for more

information: [www.ethnicdiversity.org](http://www.ethnicdiversity.org) under their "What We Do" tab.

#### Spanish Church Summer Camp

Iglesia Alas de Aguila is holding a summer camp June 15-19. This VBS camp will be run in Spanish, giving your children the opportunity to keep up their language skills. For more information, call 616-738-3850. The church is located at the corner of 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Riley Street.

#### Summer Tutoring

Summer tutoring will be available in Spanish for students entering First through Fourth Grades. The cost of tutoring is \$25.00 per hour. Using the list provided, please contact the tutor directly if you are interested in this option for your child.

If students entering Grades 3 or 4 need additional tutoring in English subjects, please contact your child's classroom teacher or Nancy Pyle before May for more information.

#### Summer Tutors:

HildaMaria Duran (616) 738-0781  
Zuri Suero (616) 617-1205  
Elizabeth Varela (616) 575-0937  
Pilar Vasquez (616) 862-3407

#### El Puente at Camp Geneva

If you have a student entering First through Fourth Grade in the fall of 2009, we invite you to consider a unique opportunity for your student to attend El Puente at Camp Geneva for a week this summer with other bilingual students. More information was sent home to parents with students who will enter First through Fourth Grade this fall. Instructions for camp registration were included.

#### Teacher Inservice

Our El Puente teachers and staff will be meeting together this summer to prepare for the year ahead. Please pray for our staff on June 8 and 9 as we work together to make El Puente the best it can be.

#### Global Connection:

Our El Puente teachers recently had the opportunity to host friends from Grace Christian Community School in the Philippines for a multicultural dinner experience.



## Conecciones

Connections

*...que todos  
sean unido...  
así el mundo  
reconozca que  
tú me enviaste...*  
Juan 17:21-23



We continue to see God work out the mission of El Puente by presenting unique opportunities for linguistic and cultural immersion; opening doors to show His love in our classrooms, in our community, and in the world! Take some time to read about these connections and find out how you can partner with El Puente students to live out our mission in each of these communities.

*I pray that they maybe one...  
so that the world may know  
that you have sent me*  
John 17: 21-23

### Para mas información

(For more information)

Contact Stacey VandenBosch  
or Nancy Pyle at

[elpuente@zcs.org](mailto:elpuente@zcs.org)

For volunteer opportunities  
contact Beth Roels at

[broels@zcs.org](mailto:broels@zcs.org)

**Fiesta 2009: May 2 in Downtown Holland** *Community Connection*  
*Fiesta* is a springtime celebration of Hispanic Heritage that is planned and put together by LAUP (Latin Americans United for Progress), a Hispanic advocacy group located in Holland. *Fiesta* includes singing, dancing, and good food. Last year, El Puente was invited to participate in *Fiesta*, and many El Puente families enjoyed a chance to learn more about Hispanic culture. This year, El Puente has once again been invited to participate. Some students from Zeeland Christian will be presenting the Pledge of Allegiance, and other El Puente students from Zeeland Christian will be singing during the morning *Fiesta* activities. Please watch your child's classroom newsletters for more information about participation.

### Your Chance to Connect:

**Ditto Booth** – Ditto, Holland Christian and Zeeland Christian's resale shop will have a booth at *Fiesta*. We are looking for parent and student volunteers to help run the booth throughout the day, in half-hour or hour increments of time (you may volunteer for more than one time slot). If you would like to help at the booth, please contact Beth Roels at [broels@zcs.org](mailto:broels@zcs.org) or by calling 772-2609.

You are invited to attend *Fiesta 2009* in downtown Holland. Festivities begin on Friday, May 1, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The main *Fiesta* events run on Saturday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance will kick off the Saturday events at 9:00am.

### Holland Christian's Community Fiesta Night

*Community Connection*

Holland Christian's Spanish Department announces their Community Fiesta Night set for May 13. The event will be in corroboration with several local Spanish speaking churches from the Holland area. The Fiesta Night will include traditional Mexican food for sampling, games and prizes, crafts for children, face painting and Salsa dancing lessons. There will also be musical performances put on by elementary students. The event will take place in Main Street at Holland Christian High School and will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13. All are welcome to join in the celebration of the diversity that makes up the greater Holland community.

### Spotlight on Maestra Laura Zondervan, Kindergarten at Zeeland Christian School

Maestra Laura Zondervan is originally from Saltillo in Coahuila, Mexico. She has lived here in Zeeland for the past 7 years. She met her husband in Mexico, and then visited the Holland and Zeeland Area while they were dating to better understand his life, culture, and family. During her visit, she lived with a West Michigan family for 4 months, and was introduced to their friend Becky Schrotenboer. After Maestra Zondervan dated her husband for almost 2 years, she and he married.

After she and her husband moved to Michigan, Maestra Zondervan got a teaching job with Creekside Middle School. One day she called Becky Schrotenboer, just to say "hola", and Maestra Zondervan found out about a possible Kindergarten teaching job at ZCS. Later, another teacher from Zeeland Christian urged Maestra Zondervan to interview with Principal VanDyk for the El Puente Kindergarten opening. When Maestra Zondervan realized that Zeeland Christian and El Puente were the same school, she knew she had found the right place to teach.

Maestra Zondervan has a very large family. She has 4 brothers and 2 sisters. She also has 15 nieces and nephews, as well as 1 grand-niece and 1 grand-nephew. All of her family lives in Saltillo and Torreón in Coahuila, Mexico, except for her oldest brother who lives in Alamo, Texas.

In her free time Maestra Zondervan enjoys doing devotions, learning new things, and traveling. As many of you saw in an earlier edition of Noticias, Maestra Zondervan became a Citizen of the United States this past year. She feels blessed not only to be accepted as a citizen of this country, but also to be accepted and loved by the Christian families in the Zeeland Christian and El Puente communities.

