



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)

March 31, 2009

Bendiciones (Blessings)

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.

Making Summer Plans?

We are working to put together opportunities for our students to continue using their Spanish this summer. If you find any summer Spanish activities that you don't see listed here, please call or email Beth Roels so we can share them with our other El Puente families!

Summer

So many exciting opportunities are starting to pop up for summer. We wanted to make you aware of what El Puente has to offer during your child's time off from school.

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. Typically, students meet with their tutor twice a week for an hour each time for 6-10 weeks during the summer, although this schedule may be adjusted according to your child's needs and the tutor's availability. Using the list below, 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. Camp Geneva and El Puente are partnering to create a week-long day camp focused on God that uses the Spanish language. More information has been sent home to parents with students who will enter First through Fourth Grade this fall. Instructions for camp registration are included.

Teacher Inservice

Also this summer, our El Puente teachers and staff will be meeting together to prepare for the year ahead. We feel it is important to have intentional professional development time as an El Puente staff to reflect on the previous year and learn new strategies for second language instruction. Please pray for our staff on June 8 and 9 as we work together to make El Puente the best it can be.

Spotlight on Maestra Carmen Gutierrez, Threeschool and Preschool at Zeeland Christian

Maestra Carmen Gutierrez was born and raised in Holland, Michigan. Although her father is originally from Puerto Rico, and her mom is from Mexico, all of Maestra Gutierrez's family lives here in Western Michigan. Maestra Gutierrez has two sisters and two brothers, all of whom work in Christian Ministry positions. Her brother is a minister at Christ Memorial Church, and she has a brother and sister on staff at Resurrection Life Church. Maestra Gutierrez's husband is from Cuautitlán Itxcali, Mexico, where his parents were missionaries for years. Her husband moved to Michigan 18 years ago, to visit his sister. Maestra Gutierrez met her husband at church, and married him three years later. They have three boys: Alan (11), Eric (10), and Andrew (6). In all, Maestra Gutierrez has eight nieces and nephews.

When Maestra Gutierrez has free time, she likes to plant flowers, take walks, and spend time with her husband and children. Maestra also enjoys singing as part of a worship team at her church, and teaching children in church. Maestra Gutierrez continues to be blessed by the way God daily shows his greatness through little things, and how he has saved us through his grace.



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

For volunteer opportunities
contact Beth Roels at

broels@zcs.org

Are you catching Spring Fever?

This might be a good time to spruce up your Spanish!

Limpiar (leem-pee-are) = to clean

Primavera (pree-mah-vair-ah) = spring

Lluvia (you-vee-ah) = rain

Sol (soul) = sun

Playa (ply-yah) = beach

Aves (ah-vase) = birds

Tulipanes (two-lee-pahn-nace) = tulips

Arbol (ar-bowl) = tree

Teachers' Alliance Meeting *Classroom and Community Connection*

Last week Thursday, our El Puente teachers had a chance to meet with other teachers and professors from schools in West Michigan that have Spanish immersion programs. The West Michigan Alliance of Immersion Educators meetings allow our teachers to share and learn teaching strategies to be used in our immersion classrooms, and the meetings keep our staff up to date on the latest research about immersion programs. We are thankful that our teachers are dedicated to being the best they can be in our El Puente program, and we are excited to have the opportunity to share our knowledge with others in our community.

Fiesta 2009 *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* usually coincides with Cinco de Mayo, and it 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 at this year's *Fiesta* in downtown Holland, and other El Puente students from Zeeland Christian will be singing during the morning *Fiesta* activities. Please watch your student'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. If you would like to help at the booth, please contact Beth Roels at 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.

El Puente in Quepos *Global Connection*

This week and over the spring break, El Puente coordinator Stacey VandenBosch and her family are in Costa Rica, helping to establish our sister El Puente school in Quepos. She is continuing to train the staff as they prepare for their inaugural school year. We look forward to future opportunities for our El Puente students with our friends in Costa Rica.