



Our kindergarteners and Ms. Ryan do an inquiry investigation about plants

March 2009 Newsletter

Spanish at AGC by Sra. Santana

The Academy for Global Citizenship believes that the acquisition of a second language at a young age is an integral part of the preparation in becoming global citizens. The benefits of becoming bi- or multilingual are innumerable. Bilingual children become better readers, acquire a larger vocabulary in both languages, and develop a curiosity and appreciation for other languages and cultures.

We strive to expose children at a young age because they are more likely to become fluent and not speak with an accent. Research has proven that children who learn to read and write in two languages will simultaneously advance in both languages at the same rate.

Students here at AGC have daily exposure to Spanish. Spanish is learned using traditional and at

times unique songs, rhythms, and games. On a weekly basis a new vocabulary and a new letter of the Spanish alphabet is introduced. Various projects are done throughout the week incorporating the vocabulary and letter. Emphasis on letters and sounds forms the foundation in developing a fluent reader.

Once students start reading text they will begin developing a richer vocabulary and ultimately become fluent speakers, readers, and writers.

At home connections:

- ♦ Encourage your children to recite the Spanish alphabet.
- ♦ Ask them what sound the letters make in Spanish.
- ♦ Ask your child to tell you how to say a color in Spanish.
- ♦ When taking a ride in the car ask your child to count the light posts in Spanish.

- ♦ Or try to incorporate Spanish with math by letting your child roll two dice and ask them to add or subtract the numbers. Then, ask your child to say it aloud. Example: Roll a 5 and a 3. Add $5 + 3 = 8$, and then your child will say ocho.

Before you know it they may be teaching you Spanish as well!

For the past several weeks, our ELL students have taken part in ACCESS "a standard-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English" (ISBE). The results of the test will be distributed at the beginning of the next school year.

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The Academy for Global
Citizenship

2009

The Academy for Global Citizenship empowers students to positively impact the community and world beyond.

In pursuit of this mission, AGC is committed to: *Serving the whole child, modeling excellence in academics, developing inquirers, cultivating international awareness, fostering environmental stewardship, and facilitating collaboration within the community.*

PTA News!

PTA meetings will now be held right after school at 4:45.

We are looking for volunteers to join one of our teams! Please contact PTA President Therese Jimenez (773) 480-6557 if you are interested in helping with :

- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Events
- ✓ Box Tops
- ✓ Uniforms

There are a variety of ways to help. Your time will count towards your 20 family volunteer hours and will greatly benefit our students!

Meetings will be held at 4:45 on:
Thursday, March 26th
Thursday, April 23rd
Thursday, May 28th
Thursday, June 18th

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to volunteer your time at school. We need help with the following:

At home:

- ✓ Sewing cloth napkins for students to use at lunch
- ✓ Collecting Box Tops at home (We collected \$16 already. Please continue to send them in!)
- ✓ Organizing games for our upcoming spring fest
- ✓ Making a scrapbook of school photos



Making bird feeders for a community service project.

Announcements

Spanish and English Language Learners Family Night
Tuesday, March 10th
6:00-7:30

You are invited to attend a special evening about our Spanish and English language learner curriculum at AGC. You will learn about what students are learning in Spanish at school and how you can help at home.

AGC in the News

Both NBC and ABC came to film at school this week! They were interested in our environmental sustainability initiatives, such as using worms to compost our food waste (called vermicomposting), solar panels, and Mrs. Ellis' trip to the Arctic to study climate change. We will let everyone know when the stories will air.

At school:

- ✓ Translating at upcoming PTA and Family Coffee meetings
- ✓ Audio record stories
- ✓ Organizing and distributing uniform shirts when they arrive
- ✓ Stuffing Friday Folders on Friday mornings
- ✓ Taking pictures and video at upcoming spring fest
- ✓ Various clerical activities such as photocopying and laminating

Important Dates	March	April	May
	<p>2</p> <p>No School - Professional Development</p>	<p>6-10</p> <p>No School - Spring Break</p>	<p>1</p> <p>No School - Professional Development</p>
	<p>5</p> <p>2009-2010 New student enrollment lottery</p>	<p>14</p> <p>International Awareness Evening for Families 6:00-7:30</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Progress Reports sent home</p>
	<p>10</p> <p>Spanish Program Information Night for Families 6:00-7:30</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Spring photo day-Group pictures</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Art and Music Evening for Families 6:00-7:30</p>
	<p>13</p> <p>Portfolios and Report Cards sent home</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PTA Meeting 4:45-5:45</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No School - Memorial Day</p>
	<p>26</p> <p>PTA Meeting 4:45-5:45</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Family Coffee 10-11:00</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PTA Meeting 4:45-5:45</p>
	<p>27</p> <p>No School - Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences Noon-7:00</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No School - Professional Development</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Family Coffee 10-11:00</p>

Contact Us:
773-582-1100
5101 S. Keeler Ave.
Chicago, IL 60632
info@agcchicago.org



Our students worked on a community service project to conserve water



Ms. Polley with her students during Inquire



We read books all the time...even at breakfast



100th day of school



Making cards during our Inquire Program at the end of the day