



ESL Department Newsletter

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As I reflect on the holiday season, I cannot help but be grateful to every one working in ESL and the effort that you have put forth in support of our Emergent Bilinguals:

The roll-out of CBELD; your active participation in our Coaching for Equity; the interdepartmental cooperation with Dual Language Immersion on new programs in Vietnamese and Chinese; the Newcomer iPad Initiative; and most of all my visits to schools where I am able to see your hard work pay off for our EBs.

We should all be encouraged by the glowing review that we received from ODE and Federal auditors in September. I took great pride in sharing your great work with leaders from other districts at both the Courageous Conversations Summit and the Council of Great City Schools. We are a "model" on a national level.

As I contemplate the wealth of good news, I can't help but think about the challenges ahead for our EB's, especially for those who do not have the luxury of celebrating the season with the same abundance. I hope that all of you can find peace and happiness over the holidays and into the New Year.

Vân Truong, ESL Director

Important Dates

Professional Learning Dates

Please register on the Learning Campus

January 23 - K-2 Science CBELD
Orientation Session

January 27 - ESL Educational Assistant &
Community Agent Training

January 28 - ESL Teacher Connections

February 5 – ESL Coaching for Equity

February 20 – ELL Advisory Council

*"Every student succeeds, regardless of
race or class"*

iPads for Newcomers

The ESL Department offered a paid after-school training on iPad Apps that support vocabulary, language and literacy development. Newcomer students use the iPad during the day in both ELD and Core Content classes. ESL teachers who attended the training checked out iPads to support newcomers who have been here for less than a year. Another training is scheduled for December.

ELD on K-5 Report Cards

ELD is now included on the K-5 Report Card. Marks are given in the 4 domains (listening, speaking, reading, writing) to indicate student progress towards moving up one level of language proficiency each year.



CBELD update

The 1st round of kits (K-Trees, 1st-Pebbles Sand and Silt, 2nd-Weather) are ready and have been delivered to schools. The good news is that we have enough for everyone. However, we do need to work on our distribution process. We are currently working on producing more binders so that schools can check out one kit and a binder for each teacher if they have 30 or less students.

The 2nd round of kits (K-Liquids and Solids, 1st-Balls and Ramps, 2nd-Balance and Motion) is in production. Materials are ready for packing and print orders are being assembled as jobs are completed in Imaging Services. Teachers will be able to order kits starting January 13th. Kits will be shipped out upon completion.

Leslie, Anna and Justin are in the final stage of revision on the 3rd round of kits (K-Animals 2 x 2, 1st-Insects, 2nd-Habitats). Unit drafts will be completed and submitted to Lisa by December 13th and subsequently submitted to Imaging Services.

Leslie has brought together a team of teachers to provide ongoing feedback on how best to make immediate changes when necessary, add to a master lesson plan document and use data for collaboration meetings.

Ongoing CBELD projects include:

- Creating PPTs for all visuals
- Pre and Post Unit assessment
- Translating Home Connections
- Developing One page plans
- Updating Connect
- Monthly Surveys

Upcoming Professional Learning opportunities include:

- Release time Pilot schools in buildings to unpack kits 2 and 3 as teams with TOSA support available.
- After school unpacking time for all other schools of Kits 2 and 3 at the BESC. Participants will check out kits ahead of time and kits will be waiting for participants at training.
- Pilot school forum to share ideas and concerns.

A big shout out to all of our CBELD teachers! We cannot thank them enough for their patience, encouragement, and kind words during this massive undertaking!

International Youth Leadership Conference 2014

January 31, 2014 – Marshall Campus. We expect this year's IYLC to provide our Emergent Bilinguals with even greater opportunities for community building, college preparedness training and cross-cultural communication.

Over the next several weeks, Conference organizers and ESL staff will visit schools to coordinate registration and transportation for eligible ESL students grades 8-12. We ask for your help in giving qualified students appropriate support in taking advantage of this unique opportunity.

For more information contact Francisco Garcia, fgarcia@pps.net



Imagine Learning extends learning possibilities for EB'

The ESL department has been investigating ways in which we can bring meaningful extended-day learning for students. We are excited to about offering Imagine Learning, a computer-based learning program that supports 15 native languages and:

- Strengthens basic and academic language
- Provides strategic first-language support
- Delivers explicit and systematic instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension
- Builds background knowledge through pre-reading activities and scaffolds reading in order to promote comprehension
- Supports explicit grammatical instruction, improving speaking and writing skills
- Builds oral fluency

We will have 20 sites using Imagine Learning this year! In keeping with our PPS Milestone focus of *Reading To Learn By The End Of 3rd Grade*, we are invested in ensuring that our English learners have the additional language and reading practice necessary to succeed academically. We believe that Imagine Learning is just one avenue that will help us achieve these goals.



Dual Language Immersion to expand to Vietnamese K-5



Current studies have shown what Portland Public Schools knew long ago: Dual-Language Immersion (DLI) is not only most the effective form of bilingual education, it directly contributes to long-term academic success of its students in math, science and social studies.

Building on its successful K-5 DLI programs in Spanish, Russian and Japanese, PPS is collaborating with APANO and the Vietnamese Community of Oregon (VCNO) to establish a two-way Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program in Fall 2014.

During a community meeting at Madison Library on November 2, DLI and ESL staff answered questions about the benefits of bilingual instruction and cultural education for children who may speak Vietnamese at home, as well as to those new to the language. Parents were encouraged to hear how a DLI model can not only strengthen a child's fluency in Vietnamese/English, but also provides an education that allows them to meet or exceed state academic standards.

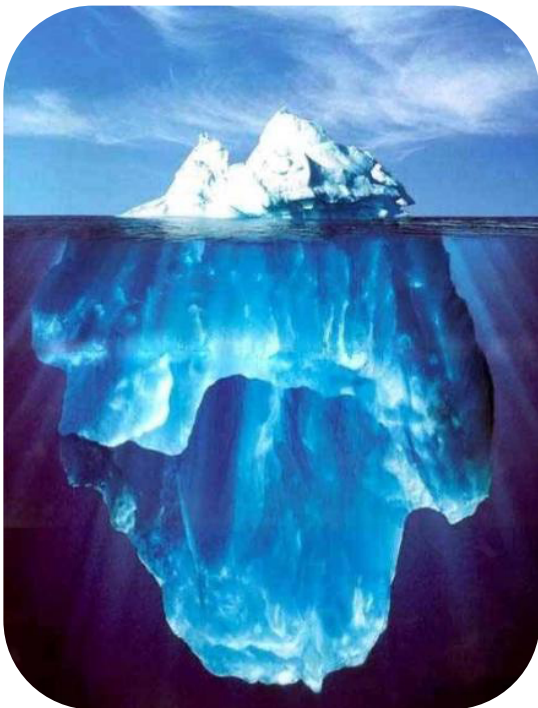
For more information, contact: Michael Bacon, DLI Asst. Director, m Bacon@pps.net

EB's start on the Path to Scholarships

On Nov. 5, over 140 Emergent Bilinguals attended a special day-long Path to Scholarships training. Students were transported from all nine PPS high school to the Marshall Campus. With the help of Path to Scholarships co-author Gerardo Ochoa, students learned strategies to create and organize a personal portfolio.

Students were given a binder and workbook that contained all the materials covered in the training: application schedule, planning, obtaining letters of reference, scholarship and financial aid application process. ESL staff and Community Agents helped students develop their essays, and at the end of the day emerged with a letter in-hand that can be used as the foundation for scholarship and college applications.

At the end of the training, 5 ESL students overcame their fear of speaking to share their stories of optimism and triumph over adversity to the entire crowd of students, teachers and administrators.



Courageous Conversations About Race

PPS Equity Coordinator Kehaulani Mingzhor helped, EAs and CAs to use the CCAR protocol to frame their conversations and practice mindful listening techniques in preparation for engagement in understanding racial and ethnic conflict amongst students, families and educators. Mindful listening questions can help explore both which quadrant I react in, as well as advancing my understanding of how the other quadrants of the Compass are present or absent in my conversation.

Staff learned how to apply their work to “the Iceberg”, a systems thinking tool developed by Peter Senge that supports educators to better understand how their beliefs impact their conclusions.

This has mirrored the equity training that ESL teachers have done with Luis Versailles from Pacific Education group. Teachers have used “the Iceberg”, as well as Senge’s “Ladder of Inference” to critically unpack the manifestations of classic, systematic equity challenges to our Emergent Bilinguals.