

Beyond Learning Language Center ¡ Feliz Navidad !

Winter 2004

Another year is gone

Birthday Greetings Feliz Cumpleaños

Sophia Palmer	Dec 4
Paige Sylvester	Dec 28
Alexander Wichser	Jan 23
Parker Sylvester	Feb 8
Taylor Campbell	Feb 12
Gabriella Bravo	Feb 15
Zuly Zapata (staff)	Jan 3

Do you have New Ideas or tips for the Newsletter?

If you have any ideas or questions we could use for our monthly tips and articles, please let us know! We also accept submissions for our inspirational/humor section. Please be sure you include the original author's name in your e-mail. Submit them to info@beyondlearnings.com

School Closing Dates:

We'll be closed from December 22nd to January 4, 2005 for Winter break. We'll return on Tuesday January 4th 2005, refreshed and ready to start a New Year.

Another year has flown by and we are headed into Christmas and New Year. It does not seem possible how quickly time passed. It has been a very busy and wonderful year, with all the activities happening in our school, all the children have grown so much, we know they are ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas break and enjoys some family and friend time over the holidays.

I would like to give a special thanks to our students and staff at Beyond Learning who have worked extremely hard and have

made this a very enjoyable place to work. We are so thankful that you allowed us to care for and teach your children and for all your support and energy throughout this year.

It is an appropriate time to reflect on the successes and struggles of the year that has gone before us with its own unique set of challenges and opportunities. Most importantly, it is a time to focus on our loved ones— our families and our friends— to acknowledge their support and presence in our lives.

As you go off to celebrate Christmas in your homes, I extend to you my best



Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo

wishes for joy, peace and good health during this Holy Season, and throughout the New Year ahead.

Feliz Navidad,

Monica Velez
December 2004

Meet our Staff: Marisol López

I was born in Venezuela, South-America with a European background. I have worked with kids for more than 20 years, first as a Dentist in my country, and when I moved to the United States I

started working with kids. Currently I am a part-time teacher assistant at the APC day school, and in the afternoon I have been working since the beginning at Beyond Learning teaching Spanish and English.

This is a fun place to work.



Marisol López

Mexican Traditions for Christmas

"La Posadas," the remarkable buildup to Christmas Eve, is perhaps the most delightful and unique Mexican tradition. Beginning December 16th, it commemorates the events in the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



The Piñata

After dark, each night of the "Posada," a procession begins led by two children. The children carry a small pine-decorated platform bearing replicas of Joseph and Mary riding a burro. Other members of the company, all with lighted long slender candles, sing the "Litany of the Virgin" as they approach the door of the house assigned to the first "Posada." Together they chant an old traditional song and awaken the master of the house to ask lodging for Mary. Those within the house threaten the company with beatings unless they move on. Again, the company pleads for admittance. When the owner of the house finally learns who his guests are, he jubilantly throws open the

doors and bids them welcome. All kneel around the manger scene or "Nacimiento" and offer songs of welcome, Ave Marias and a prayer.

Now it's time of the "Piñata," refreshments and dancing. The "Piñata" is a pottery (or paper) container, brightly decorated and filled with candy and toys. It is hung from the ceiling or a tree.

Mexican children delight in the game where the "Piñata," a pottery or paper container, many times shaped like a bull or donkey, is filled with candy and suspended from the ceiling on a rope. Each child is blindfolded and attempts to break the Piñata with a stick or bat. The child who succeeds is the hero of the festival and the candy is shared by all.

One by one, the children are blindfolded, turned around and instructed to strike the Piñata with a stick. Usually several attempts are made before the container is broken. Of course, when that happens, there is an explosion of goodies and a scattering of children.

On Christmas Eve another verse is added to the Ave Marias, telling the Virgin Mary that the desired night has come. Small children dressed as shepherds stand on either side of the nativity scene while members of the company kneel and sing a litany, after which the Christ Child is lulled to sleep with the cradle song, "El Rorro" (Babe in Arms).

At midnight the birth of Christ is announced with fireworks, ringing bells and blowing whistles. Devout worshipers surge into churches to attend the famous "Misa de Gallo" or "Mass of the Rooster." Following Mass, families return home for a tremendous dinner of traditional Mexican foods. The dishes vary with the different regions. However, somewhat common are the "tamales," rice, rellenos, "atole" (a sweet traditional drink) and "menudo," which is said to be more sobering than strong coffee.

Open House

The next open house will be held on January 12, 2005 from 10 to 12 AM and 6 to 8 PM.

We will have application packets ready for those who are interested on attending Be-



yond Learning for the first time. We would really appreciate if you let neighbors, friends and family know about Beyond Learning Language Center

Learn While Mom Shops (December Special)

This is a program especially for kids's ages 2-10. Kids will be exposed to a Spanish environment that includes games, songs, crafts, movies, and story time. Helping them explore a different culture while learning Spanish vocabulary.

With the holidays here, you've probably got an endless "to do" list and kids, off on holiday break,



I'm so excited to learn while my Mom Shops

your children for Spanish language

anxious to be entertained. We have a special program throughout December that can help. "Learn While Mom Shops" allows you to drop off

enrichment while you run errands. Kids learn Spanish through games, stories, crafts, movies and hands-on activities.

The program is offered during the month of December especially for kids 2 - 10 years old, from Monday thru Saturday from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. for \$7 an hour. For more information, call (770) 664-6711

Recipes

Arroz Dulce (Rice Sweet)

- ¾ cup rice
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 4 cups milk
- 1 cup rich cream
- ¼ tsp. salt

Scald milk. Put the rice into a deep baking dish, cover with the hot milk, and bake in a moderate oven for 3 hours, or until the rice is soft. Stir occasionally during first hour to prevent sticking. If neces-



sary, add more hot milk. When almost done, add vanilla, sugar, and cream, and finish baking.

Christmas traditions in Colombia

The main religion in Colombia is Roman Catholicism. This effects the way they celebrate Christmas.

One common traditional way that Christmas is celebrated, the way Colombia is know to celebrate Christmas is

similar to the United States but also different.

Nine days before Christmas, parties and religious observances begin on Christmas Eve, families gather together and eat a large dinner.

They also pray around "el pesebre" (the nativity), sing Christmas carols and exchange gifts. On Christmas Day, children receive gifts as did baby Jesus.

Nuestro Rincón: Actividades para Practicar el Español

Tongue Twisters Trabalenguas

A fun way to practice pronunciation in Spanish; especially those words beginning or containing the difficult letters. Let's try R

R con RR cigarro,
R con RR barril,
RRapido ruedan los carros,
cargados de azucar al ferrocarril!

Inspirational Quote

If your plan is for one year, plant rice; if your plan is for 10 years, plant trees; if your plan is for 100 years, educate children.

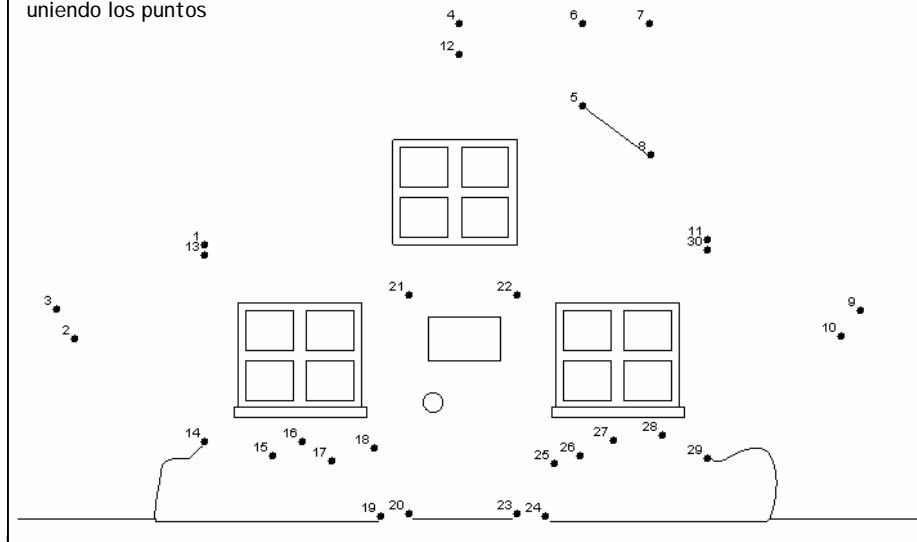
Christmas Joke

Q. How do Mexican sheep say Merry Christmas?

A. Fleece Navidad!



Encuentra la figura escondida
uniendo los puntos



Beyond Learning's News- letter needs you too!

Want to publish an article or items of interest in the news letter, have any ideas or questions we could use, please let us know! We also accept submissions for our inspirational/humor section. Please be sure you include the original author's name in your e-mail. Submit them to info@beyondlearnings.com



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