

October 2011

Languages in the News

How to Raise a Global Kid

Newsweek's online publication *The Daily Beast* recently published an article about a father's choice to raise his daughter in Singapore to better prepare her to compete in a global economy. According to the article, the United States is failing to adequately create global citizens. Some ways the author believes the United States is falling short include:

- Only 37 percent of Americans hold a passport.
- Fewer than 2 percent of America's 18 million college students go abroad during their undergraduate years.
- Only a quarter of public primary schools offer any language instruction at all, and fewer high schools offer French, German, Latin, Japanese, or Russian than they did in 1997.
- The number of schools teaching Chinese and Arabic is very small.
- 200 million Chinese schoolchildren are studying English.
- South Korean parents recently demanded that their children begin English instruction in first grade, rather than in second.
- Nearly 700,000 students from all over the world attended U.S. universities during the 2009–10 school year.

Click here to read [How to Raise a Global Kid](#).

This issue of *Newsworthy* was compiled by Tammy Dann. Send any comments, questions, or information for future issues of *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at trdann@q.com.

Cherokee Language Immersion School Could Become Public

Cherokee Nation's private language immersion school in Tahlequah has applied to become a chartered public school. By becoming a public charter school, its students will take state standardized testing and their scores will be made public. The students will be expected to pass the standardized state testing in English. The school cannot turn away students based on race.

The immersion school began as a private preschool in 2001 as a way to help the Cherokee Nation preserve its language. It has added a grade level each year and is now a preK-8 school. Students, teachers and staff speak, write and read Cherokee in every subject except English.

Click here to read [Cherokee Language Immersion School Could Become Public](#).

**This school received approval to become a charter school. Click here to learn more about the [Cherokee Charter Academy](#).

Thank you to Heather Hendry, Shanon Shreffler, Andrea Suarez, Janet Glass and Josh Hemlee for providing the links used in *Newsworthy*.

Thank you to Kennedy Schultz, Veronica Guevara, Shanon Shreffler and Sally Hood for their work writing summaries.

Tips and Tools for Early Language Learning

Señora Glass' website

Janet Glass, ACTFL's Teacher of the Year in 2008, has a website with many resources.

These include:

- A Tour of Latin Music
- Videos of Nicolás
- Using VoiceThread for Oral Surveys
- Performance Assessment Clips from FLES
- Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: TPRS script and pictures
- From Talk to Tech: Twenty Standards-based Activities to use in Thematic Units
- World Languages Framework Project: The Monarch Unit
- Galápagos: A photographic journey to the Galapagos Islands

Click here to access [Señora Glass' website](#).

Currency Converter

The currency converter allows the user to determine the conversion rates for 180 different currencies, both current and obsolete.

Click here to access the [currency converter](#).

Go Comics

This site has links to multiple comic strips in Spanish. Teachers could use the comics to introduce themes, check for comprehension, or blank out the dialogue and allow students to write their own dialogue. There are popular comics as well as comics from other countries.

Click here to access [Go Comics](#).

Foreign Language Learning and Students with Disabilities

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange has information for foreign language teachers who have students with disabilities. The site includes tips, accommodations, teaching methods and resources to help students with disabilities be successful in foreign language classes. The topics covered include:

1. Students with learning disabilities accessing foreign languages
2. Deaf and hard of hearing students accessing foreign languages
3. Students who are blind or visually impaired accessing foreign languages
4. Suggestions for the foreign language student who has a vision impairment
5. Links to more foreign language and disability resources and stories

Click here to access [Foreign Language Learning and Students with Disabilities](#).

NCLRC Culture Club: Hangout

Listen to teenagers answer questions on food, music, fashion, sports, and popular trends in their countries. Countries currently represented are Argentina, Korea (Seoul), Russia, Portugal, and Italy. Visitors can contribute to the Culture Club by interviewing a teenager in a non-English-speaking country. Click on "Activities" for suggestions on how to use the interviews.

Click here to access the [NCLRC Culture Club: Hangout](#).