



Spanish Newsletter

January 2010

¡Hola! We are in the midst of doing some very exciting things that I would like to share with you.

In **third grade**, We are learning about Spain- the foods and the geography. We can use the different cardinal directions to describe where places are in Spain-and talk about the bordering countries and bodies of water. No unit about Spain would be complete without learning about typical foods such as paella, flan, gazpacho, tortilla española, and meats such as chorizo and jamón Serrano.

In **fourth grade**, we can talk about countries, continents, oceans, and cities all in Spanish! We can use the cardinal directions, and ask where countries, states and continents are located on a map. We are also learning about some typical foods from different Spanish-speaking parts of the globe. We have two songs we sing in class-one about the continents, and the other about Mexico that you can see below. We will be transferring our knowledge about how to talk about all continents and countries to New York, as that's what they are doing in their core classes. We will then be starting to learn about ecosystems (also interdisciplinary).

In **fifth grade**, we actually started a book in Spanish!! We have been reading, writing, and discussing it in class and for homework. It is a story about a girl from Guatemala who travels to California. Currently we are learning about the geography and topography of Guatemala and can ask and answer questions about it! ☺

Daily Routines/Songs

Every class we generally start off by writing something we have learned on the smart board such as answering a question using vocabulary or how would we feel in the following situation. In fourth and fifth grade we have started the addition of free writing in the target language. The purpose of this is to improve fluency. We practice the directions of arriba, abajo, adelante, atrás, izquierda, derecha, encima de, debajo de, adentro de, en, cerca de, lejos de, delante, detrás sing and dance to "Mi Cuerpo" practice body parts.

Every class is begun with a chant or song and warm-up by passing a ball around the classroom while asking questions. We love playing games such as "Olé," "Montezuma", charades, "Ramón" or "Mambo Dice" and hangman on the smart board with our newly acquired vocabulary. Ask about Mambo! He is quite famous! We like to ask him questions...but only in Spanish so he can understand.

Canción de Continentes

Norteamérica
Sudamérica, uh huh
Europa, Asia
Australia, Africa
Antártica, Antártica
Uno, dos, tres
Cuatro, cinco, seis
Siete continentes,
Siete continentes

Yo Prefiero México

Muchos países tienen islas y playas
Y montañas que besan el mar
Otros países tienen ríos y lagos
Escondidos en la selva tropical

Estribillo:

Muchos países son interesantes

Cada con un sabor particular
Mi corazón tiene un favorito,
There's just one place I wanna go...
Yo prefiero México

En Rusia siempre hace frío
En España hace calor
En Inglaterra está lloviendo
¡Es fantástico viajar!

En España comen el calamari
En el Perú el cuy es especial
En Argentina comen el churrasco
¡Hay tanto que ver y probar!

México tiene islas y playas
Y montañas que besan el mar
México tiene ríos y lagos
Escondidos en la selva tropical

Canto de la geografía de México

Del lago al río
Donde hace mucho frío;
Del valle al mar
Donde yo quiero nadar;
Del bosque a la colina
Donde vuela la golondrina;
Del volcán a la playa
Donde la vieja se desmaya,
¡Hasta la selva tan gigante
Para comer el chile picante!
¡Guanajuato, Coahuila, Puebla, Chiapas, Michoacán
Sinaloa, Veracruz, ¡Ay, Chihuahua! Yucatán!

Some helpful classroom commands and expressions:

¡Siéntate!	<i>See-Ehn-tah-tay</i>	Sit down!
¡Levántate!/ ¡Párate!	<i>Lay-vAhn-ta-tay/ pAh-rah-tay</i>	Stand up!
¡Levanta la mano!	<i>Lay-vahn-ta lah mah-no</i>	Raise your hand!
¡Baja la mano!	<i>Bah-ha lah mah-no</i>	Put your hand down!
¡Ayúdame, por favor!	<i>Ah-yoo-dah-may por- fah-bor</i>	Help me, please!
Gracias	<i>Grah-see-ahss</i>	Thank you
De nada	<i>Day-nah-dah</i>	You're welcome!
Por favor	<i>Por-fah-bor</i>	Please

A useful website to hear Spanish vocabulary and songs is at www.hello-world.com