



Education Office of the Embassy of Spain

ISA Newsletter



Issue No. 9 | May 2025

Welcome to our new monthly issue of the ISA newsletter!

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain and the ISA program are very excited to launch issue number 9 of the ISA Newsletter. We aim to inform you about the activities other schools in the network are carrying out, as well as showcasing the most relevant events organized by the Education Office. We also hope it inspires you to continue the wonderful work you've already been doing. Enjoy it!

La Consejería de Educación de la Embajada de España y el programa ISA están encantados con la publicación del boletín de noticias número 9. El objetivo de este boletín es dar a conocer aquellas actividades que los centros de la red están realizando, así como mostrar las actividades organizadas por la Consejería de Educación. Esperamos que sirva como inspiración para que sigáis haciendo la magnífica labor que lleváis años realizando. Esperamos que lo disfrutéis.



The ISA program is endorsed by



Gunston MS (Arlington, VA):

Cómo la lectura por placer apoya la comunicación oral de manera interactiva

Docente responsable: María Leticia Delgado

Este Proyecto tiene como objetivo fomentar la lectura libre como vehículo para desarrollar la fluidez oral de nuestros estudiantes, a través de dinámicas como “citas rápidas”, “la fogata” y conversaciones guiadas.

Busca fomentar el gusto por la lectura en el aula de español mediante actividades que conectan los textos leídos con la expresión oral. A través de la lectura por placer, el alumnado desarrolla habilidades comunicativas, enriquece su vocabulario y gana confianza al hablar en español.

Cómo la lectura por placer apoya la comunicación oral de manera interactiva

En nuestras clases de español, fomentamos la lectura por placer como una herramienta clave para enriquecer el vocabulario, despertar el interés por la cultura y fortalecer la expresión oral. A través de actividades lúdicas como “citas rápidas”, “la fogata” y discusiones literarias, los estudiantes comparten sus opiniones y experiencias relacionadas con los textos que eligen leer libremente.

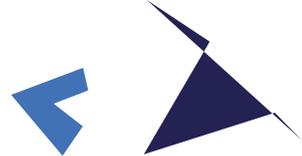
Esta conexión entre lectura y habla les permite comunicarse con mayor fluidez y confianza, en un ambiente participativo y motivador.

Los estudiantes no solo leen, **se escuchan, se expresan y se divierten**, desarrollando habilidades lingüísticas esenciales mientras se sienten protagonistas de su aprendizaje.



Todos los [materiales](#) cuentan con autorización de uso.





Recursos / materiales digitales de las actividades destacadas:

1. **Lectura por placer:** Los estudiantes eligen libremente libros de una biblioteca de aula, lo cual reduce la presión y aumenta la motivación.

2. **Citas rápidas literarias:** Luego de la lectura, los estudiantes conversan con cuatro compañeros diferentes, rotando cada pocos minutos. En cada "cita", responden una misma pregunta sobre el libro o el personaje, compartiendo puntos de vista diversos.

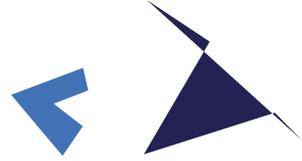
3. **La fogata:** Espacio de discusión oral en círculo, donde cada estudiante comparte una opinión o reflexión relacionada con la lectura. La persona que cumple años en abril, por ejemplo, inicia la conversación.



Centros ISA de Schaumburg, IL

Los centros ISA de Schaumburg, Illinois, celebraron el pasado viernes 2 de mayo la XIII edición del concurso de oratoria en español en sus dos categorías: estudiantes hispanohablantes y estudiantes de español como lengua extranjera. De alrededor de 200 participantes, un total de 22 quedaron finalistas para este concurso, en el que la Consejería de Educación de la Embajada de España estuvo presente como jurado. Los estudiantes demostraron una dicción extraordinaria fruto del gran trabajo y esfuerzo empleados y gracias al apoyo de sus profesores y familias. ¡Orgullosos de ser ISA!





Blessed John Paul I School (Edmonton) *Proyecto interdisciplinar*

Through an exciting interdisciplinary project at Blessed John Paul I School's Spanish bilingual program, the Grade 1/2C class led by teacher Katharina Gonzalez, explored a series of four books that seamlessly integrated subjects like math, social studies, art, science, Spanish, and English Language Arts (ELAL).

The books are all about the same charismatic protagonist named Carla, who, like her young readers, is learning about her world through the lens of childhood curiosity and humour.

Through interactive lessons, hands-on activities, and creative projects, students engaged deeply with the stories, applying concepts from various subjects to enrich their understanding.

The initiative culminated in a special virtual meeting with one of the authors, Álvaro Núñez, allowing students to connect firsthand with the creator of the books, ask questions, and gain valuable insights into the writing and illustrating process.

This project fostered curiosity, collaboration, and a love for learning across multiple disciplines. Other classes at Blessed John Paul I, ranging from grades two to five, also joined in the activity, which speaks to the vast appeal of the books. Katharina Gonzalez, the brainchild of this dynamic and creative project, later presented her experiences with the Carla series to an engaged audience at the Encuentro de Profesores de español on May 3, 2025.





John I. Leonard HS (Florida)

Students Made a Strong Showing at the Florida State Spanish Conference in Orlando!

From April 17th to 19th, John I. Leonard High School's dedicated International Spanish Academy students in Greenacres, Florida, journeyed to Orlando to participate in the prestigious Florida State Spanish Conference (FSSC), and their hard work truly shone! They engaged in a wide array of competitions, showcasing their talents in both academic and cultural spheres.



In the academic arena, our students delivered captivating drama performances that brought stories to life, impressed judges with their quick wit and articulate thoughts in impromptu speaking, and moved audiences with their powerful declamations of Spanish literature. On the cultural side, the energy was high as our students presented vibrant and expressive dance routines and shared the beauty of the

Spanish language through their vocal performances.

The months of diligent preparation under the guidance of their teachers culminated in a significant achievement for JILHS. We are thrilled to announce that our students earned **several Outstanding Performance recognitions** across various categories! This recognition is a testament to their commitment, skill, and passion for the Spanish language and culture.

Their dedication and enthusiasm in representing John I. Leonard High School and the International Spanish Academy are truly commendable.





Robert Warren School – Calgary, Alberta, Canada *Celebrating Culture, Building Community*

At Robert Warren School, our Well-being Action Team launched a powerful initiative to foster inclusion and belonging by celebrating the diverse cultural identities within our community. Rather than approaching mental health from a problem-based perspective, we focused on connection, creating space for students to feel seen, valued, and proud of who they are.

In collaboration with student leaders, we developed a bilingual and multilingual project that culminated in our **Heritage Day** on April 25th. Through a school-wide survey, students in Grades 6–9 shared their cultural backgrounds and were invited to join Heritage Groups supported by staff. These groups worked together to research traditions, holidays, and geography, and to create interactive displays that represented their heritage.

Over the course of four weeks, students designed their presentations with enthusiasm, exploring cultures from across the globe—while placing a special spotlight on the **Hispanic world**, in line with our Spanish Bilingual Program. Our school came alive with languages, music, food, and visuals that reflected our international community. Heritage Day brought the project to life. Students received “passports” and explored cultural displays by visiting different rooms, completing activities, and earning stamps for a prize draw. The energy was joyful and inclusive, with students proudly sharing their heritage while learning about others’. This peer-led event was a vivid example of student voice in action.

Impact on Students and School Community

Students expressed feeling more connected and prouder of their identities. The event sparked meaningful conversations, friendships across grades, and a stronger sense of belonging. Our school became a space where diversity is not just acknowledged—but celebrated.

Strengths in Our School Community

This initiative succeeded because of strong collaboration between staff and students, leadership opportunities for youth, and our collective commitment to well-being through inclusion.

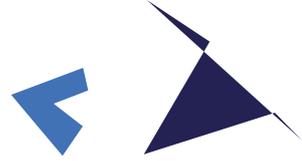
Challenges and Solutions

Some groups were small or had overlapping identities. To support everyone, we combined smaller groups, provided flexible participation options, and regularly checked in with students to maintain engagement.

Celebrating the Process Through Student Voice

Student creativity, leadership, and ownership guided every phase—from survey responses to final presentations. Their voices shaped the event, and their pride was evident in every conversation, display, and interaction during the celebration. This project demonstrated how culture, language, and student leadership can come together to build stronger, more inclusive school communities—where everyone feels they belong.





The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology (NY)

I Festival de Teatro

El 9 de abril se celebró en el auditorio de la escuela ISA [The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology](#) (Bronx, Nueva York) el [I Festival de Teatro](#) de las ISAS de Nueva York y Nueva Jersey.



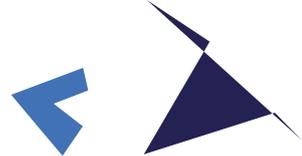
En el festival, participaron más de 160 alumnos de las escuelas [Dos Puentes Elementary School](#), [The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology](#), [International School of Brooklyn](#) y [Hoboken Dual Language Charter School](#). Junto a las escuelas, nos acompañaron en el evento la Cónsul General de España en Nueva York, D^a Marta de Blas Mayordomo, el Cónsul de Asuntos Culturales, D. Pedro Calvo-Sotelo, el jefe de Actividades Culturales del [Instituto Cervantes de Nueva York](#), D. José Luis Perales, y los representantes de las Artes Escénicas de Nueva York, D. Ángel Gil y D^a Soledad López, del [Thalia Spanish Theatre](#).

Las actuaciones, realizadas por alumnado de escuelas de Elementary, Middle y High School, abarcaron diversas artes escénicas como el teatro musical, la danza, el teatro de texto y la música.

Agradecemos enormemente el gran trabajo de las profesoras y profesores en el montaje de cada una de las actuaciones que hicieron que disfrutáramos de una velada inolvidable, y felicitamos a todos los alumnos y alumnas participantes por su gran talento, ilusión y amor por el teatro.

Muy [orgullosos de ser ISA](#) y de la gran comunidad que formamos entre las escuelas del programa.





Our Lady of the Rockies HS (Calgary)

Los eventos recientes en nuestra escuela han brindado a los estudiantes oportunidades inolvidables para sumergirse en el vibrante mundo de la lengua y cultura española. Estas experiencias inmersivas no solo han enriquecido el aprendizaje de nuestros estudiantes del programa Bilingüe de Español y de Cultura y Lengua Española, sino que también han fortalecido el aprecio de toda nuestra comunidad por las diversas tradiciones culturales que nos forman.

- **"Sopa de piedra" – Una exploración teatral:** clásico cuento español *Sopa de Piedra* cobró vida gracias a una dinámica presentación teatral realizada por los estudiantes. Con la guía de una Artista en Residencia, desarrollaron habilidades actorales, exploraron la construcción de personajes y abrazaron la expresión creativa—todo en español. Esta experiencia enriquecedora no solo mejoró su competencia lingüística, sino que también enseñó valiosas lecciones sobre el compartir, el trabajo en equipo y el poder la comunidad.



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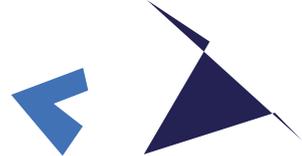
- **Día de los Muertos:** Estudiantes de los programas de Bilingüe de Español y de Cultura y Lengua Española, junto con la comunidad de OLOR en general, celebraron las animadas tradiciones del Día de los Muertos. A través de altares interactivos, ofrendas y proyectos artísticos, los estudiantes adquirieron una profunda apreciación por cultura mexicana y su hermosa fusión de influencias indígenas y españolas.



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- **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y Las Velitas:** La celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y Las Velitas ofreció a los estudiantes una valiosa oportunidad para conocer las diversas devociones marianas en México y Colombia. A través de la oración, la reflexión y la exploración cultural, los estudiantes conectaron con el profundo significado de estas tradiciones. El evento también incluyó una venta de repostería para apoyar a *Mission Mexico*, promoviendo así el sentido de comunidad y servicio. Estos eventos han sido poderosas celebraciones de la lengua, la cultura y la fe, proporcionando a los estudiantes recuerdos imborrables y experiencias de aprendizaje invaluable. *Vea la galería a continuación.*





North Davis Preparatory Academy (Utah)

Capturing the Spirit of Spain: A Visual Art Project at NDPA

By Erinne Roundy – NDPA Arts Integration Teacher



At North Davis Preparatory Academy (NDPA) in Layton, Utah, a unique visual art project has transformed the school's secondary gym into a vibrant celebration of Spanish culture.

This space—used daily for P.E., lunch, assemblies, and performances—now serves as a colorful reminder of the school's commitment to language and cultural immersion. NDPA, home to the largest K-9 dual language immersion program in Utah, offers students an opportunity to learn in both English and

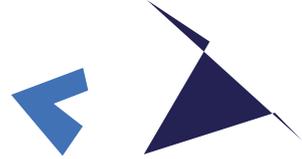
Spanish from 1st through 9th grade. For Junior High students, Spanish is a required subject, with options ranging from beginner to advanced immersion classes. Ninth graders even have the chance to participate in a life-changing Spain Study Abroad program.

Recognizing the importance of connecting students with the culture they study, NDPA embarked on a three-year journey to design and install a custom vinyl gym wrap that encapsulates the essence of Spain. In collaboration with Bigfoot Grafix, a local large-format print studio in Ogden, we were able to bring this vision to life. The challenge? Spain is a country rich in history, architecture, and tradition—narrowing down which images would best represent it proved no easy task.

The final design showcases iconic Spanish landmarks, cultural scenes, and elements that tie directly into the curriculum and the experiences students have during their study abroad. Every image was carefully selected to not only reflect the beauty of Spain, but to reinforce what students learn in class from historical events to cultural traditions.

The result is a breathtaking and immersive gym space that inspires curiosity and pride in NDPA students. More than just decoration, the gym wrap is an educational tool and cultural bridge, connecting students in Layton to the rich heritage of Spain. As students pass through this multi-purpose space, they are reminded daily of the journey they are on— one that may one day take them across the Atlantic to walk the very streets they now see on their school walls.





El Teatro Hispano de ISB: Theater and Language Acquisition at International School of Brooklyn (NY)

“Dadme cuatro bastidores, cuatro tableros,” ... unos estudiantes de escuelas ISA y una pasión.

– Lope de Vega

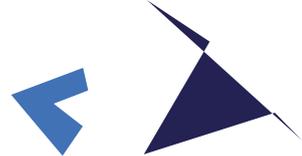
Several International School of Brooklyn Spanish Language students traveled to the Bronx this April to participate in the Festival de Teatro ISA (International Spanish Academies), organized by the Spanish Embassy in the United States, Ministry of Education. ISB's participation in the festival marked the first time their students collaborated across grade levels to present a play entirely in Spanish—and it was an unforgettable experience and a feat for all who participated.



Following what is becoming a new tradition at ISB, this was not the first time that their Spanish students took a plunge into such a project. In past years, the 5th Graders have presented full length plays including: *La ciudad de Gaturguga*, *El baño de Cenicienta*, and *La Revolución Mexicana y un chín-chín más*, productions which have been described as inspiring, and some even “¡escandalosas!” This year, however, as a special project for El Festival de Teatro ISA, ISB used the opportunity to dive deeper into the theater and combine the work of students from 4th to 8th Grades as “Teatro Hispano de ISB.”

One would think that it is extremely challenging to put together a full-length play in Spanish with Spanish learners, and while this is true, there is also a great secret behind this type of activity. Plays in a target language are one of the most practical means for learning and acquiring the language. In the case of ISB, it is also an ideal opportunity to involve students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) method of experiential learning. Each year the school has put together a Spanish play, one can hear the buzz of students rehearsing, making costumes, practicing their lines, creating sets; spontaneously applying the IB's Approaches to Learning—thinking, social, communication, research and self-management skills... the learning and growth is palpable and quantifiable.





ISB’s Spanish Language Coordinator Karuna Hernández, may be described as a “risk taker,” but she feels that she is responding to the students’ own enthusiasm and willingness to take risks and to grow. In this sense, she sees her role as “simply helping them discover something that is already within them and providing the chance to experience using their whole person to convey a message.”



In that spirit, for the Festival de Teatro ISA this year, a group of passionate students brought to life *Juana Boba consigue un trabajo*, a re-envisioned version of the Tales of Juan Bobo, a beloved character from Puerto Rican and Latin American folklore. Juan Bobo is often portrayed as a well-meaning but naïve young man from the countryside who gets into trouble because of his literal thinking and extraordinary kindness. In ISB’s version, Juana “Boba,” is a strong and kind-hearted young woman who leaves her village to find work — just, un trabajito —to help support her family. But as often is the case for Juana “Boba,” nothing goes according to plan and she has to seek the help of a new and magical canine character, adding yet another twist to the folkloric tale!

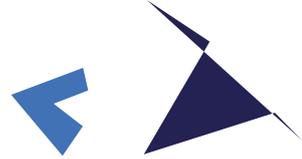


Putting on this play at the Festival de Teatro ISA was a particularly meaningful moment for our students. With the Spanish Language Coordinator’s leadership and the full support of the school’s administration as well as the help of generous parent volunteers, our student actors and theater technicians produced a wonderful and wholly original obra de teatro. Together, we were able to deliver a powerful message that is so needed in this day and age, that “there is no greater happiness than the one that comes from selflessly taking care of others.”

Paul Romano

Associate Director of Communications, International School of Brooklyn





[Webinario para familias de alumnado ISA: Estudiar en Universidades Españolas](#)

5 de junio, 6.00 pm (Central Time)

Para registrarse haz clic en el siguiente enlace / To register click on the following link: [Formulario](#)

ISA Parent conference

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**> June 5th 6 PM
Central Time**

Registration Link

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