



Education Office of the Embassy of Spain

# ISA Newsletter



Issue No. 7 | September 2023

## Welcome to the seventh issue of the ISA newsletter!

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain and the ISA program are very excited to launch issue number 7 of the ISA Newsletter. We aim at informing 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 that it inspires you to keep on doing the wonderful job you have already been doing. Enjoy it!

La Consejería de Educación de la Embajada de España y el programa ISA están muy contentos con la publicación del boletín de noticias número 7. 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.



### Sections in this issue

- A word by the Counselor of Education
- News from the Education Office
- News from the ISA network
- The ISA program in the world
- Resources and material for DLI/ Bilingual education.

The ISA program is endorsed by





Education Office of the Embassy of Spain

# ISA Newsletter



Issue No. 7 | September 2023

**Thank you so much once again  
Muchas gracias una vez más**

**By Jesús Fernández González  
Counselor of Education for the US and Canada  
Consejero de Educación en EE. UU. y Canadá**



After the rough times we all faced throughout the pandemic, the 2022-2023 school year has brought color, culture, and passion to our ISA network. Being able to resume in-person activities has allowed our schools to once again flourish and bloom with all sorts of activities, literary contests, celebrations, and gatherings. We have shared very special moments with the entire educational Spanish community. Throughout school year, the team of the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain has worked to keep the ISA spirits high with initiatives such as:

1. The third annual video contest for ISA students, with great participation inspired by the topic: "I Have a Superpower: I am Bilingual".
2. A wide range of P.D. courses for ISA faculty, as a means to bring new experiences in language and culture teaching to the classrooms.
3. A variety of resources to bring and explore authentic materials.
4. And the celebration of the third ISA Institute within the frame of the ACTFL conference.

We would like to acknowledge the excellent work your schools have been carrying out to uphold not only high-performing standards, but also the continuity within the ISA program.

We would also like to highlight that the ISA family is growing. We are proud to announce that there will be 4 high-performing schools entering the ISA network. A big welcome to all of them!

All of this would not be possible without your enthusiasm, your drive and your commitment. Thank you so much for keeping your support and belief in this DLI/bilingual program sponsored by the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain.

El curso 2022-2023 ha traído color, cultura y pasión a nuestros centros ISA. Poder volver a las actividades plenamente presenciales ha permitido a los centros florecer con celebraciones, bailes, certámenes literarios y encuentros para compartir esos momentos especiales con toda la comunidad educativa. A lo largo del curso académico hemos compartido eventos apasionantes con los centros de la red: la tercera edición del concurso de vídeos, con el tema: "Tengo un superpoder: soy bilingüe", la enriquecedora formación del profesorado ISA, con una gran variedad de cursos para acercar la lengua y cultura españolas a los docentes; y multitud de recursos de materiales auténticos para la enseñanza de la lengua y la cultura.

Hay que destacar también que la familia ISA crece y que, a partir del curso que viene, contaremos con la incorporación al programa de cuatro centros de gran calidad educativa. ¡Bienvenidos todos!

Por último, queremos destacar que la red ISA no sería posible sin la ayuda de todas las personas de centros educativos y distritos escolares que creen y trabajan en favor de esta iniciativa. Muchas gracias de nuevo por seguir apoyando y creyendo en este programa bilingüe de la consejería de Educación de la Embajada de España



# News from the Education Office: The International Spanish Academies Program

## ISA Institute

ACTFL 2023 Edition will take place in Chicago, November 17–19. Most ISA schools principals and ISA teacher leaders are thinking of attending this conference. That is why the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain would like to host and ISA Institute within the frame of the ACTFL Conference. This event would give us the opportunity to meet in person, exchange best practices, explore new resources and methodologies, and of course, try some Spanish Tapas.

If you are interested in participating on this event, please fill out [this form](#), so we can have an estimate of people who would be eager to attend this ISA Institute.

La Conferencia de ACTFL 2023 se celebrará en Chicago del 17 al 19 de noviembre. Un gran número de directores y coordinadores del programa ISA asistirán a esta conferencia. Por este motivo a la Oficina de educación de la Embajada de España le gustaría ser anfitriona de un ISA Institute en el marco de esta conferencia. Este evento nos daría la oportunidad de celebrar un encuentro presencial para intercambiar ejemplos de buenas prácticas, explorar nuevos recursos y metodologías y por supuesto degustar unas deliciosas tapas españolas.

Para tener una aproximación de participantes interesados en asistir al evento, los interesados deben cumplimentar el siguiente formulario. [this form](#).



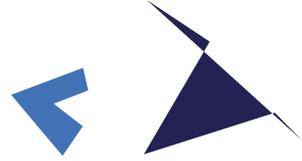
## 3rd Video Contest for ISA Students



In the school year 2022–23, the Education Office has launched the third Video Contest for ISA students. The topic of this year has been "I have a superpower: I am bilingual" and there have been over 30 entries and wonderful productions. The main goal of this contest is to motivate students to learn the Spanish language and culture, as well as enrich their bilingual experience.

En este curso 2022–23 la Consejería de Educación ha lanzado la segunda edición del concurso de vídeos para alumnado de las escuelas ISA. El tema de este año ha sido "Tengo un superpoder: soy bilingüe". El principal objetivo del certamen es el de motivar a los estudiantes en el aprendizaje de la lengua española y, a su vez, enriquecer la experiencia bilingüe.

# News from the Education Office

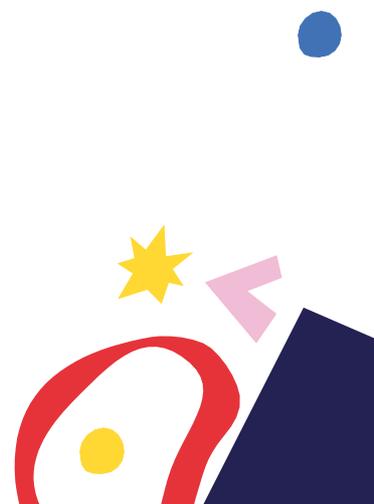


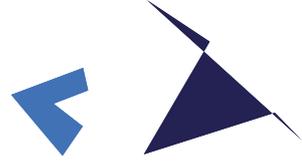
## 3rd Video Contest for ISA Students. First, Second and Third-Place Prize

**Bilingual Even to the Moon** from New Horizons Elementary School, Florida, has been awarded the **first-place prize** in the 3rd Video Contest for ISA students, organized by the Education office of the Embassy of Spain. **The Adventures of Biling&Güe**, from Key School, Virginia, has been awarded the **second-place prize**, and **Berkie Bulldogs, Bilingual Superheroes to the Rescue** from Berkshire Elementary school, Florida, has been awarded the **third-place prize**.

**Bilingües hasta en la luna**, de la escuela New Horizons Elementary School de Florida ha sido galardonado con el **primer premio** en la tercera edición del Concurso de vídeos para alumnado de centros ISA **Las aventuras de Biling&Güe** de la escuela Key, de Virginia, ha sido galardonada con el **segundo premio** y **Berkie Bulldogs, superhéroes bilingües al rescate**, de la escuela elemental Berkshire, Florida, ha sido galardonado con el **tercer premio** en la tercera edición del concurso.

### Videos





## McKernan School, Canada

### Culture Night at McKernan School



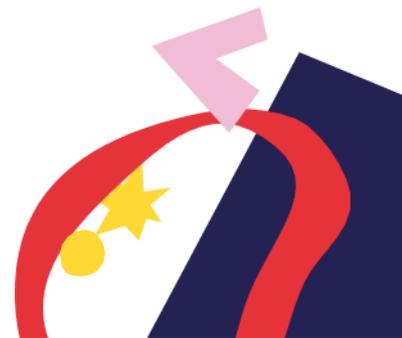
On April 13<sup>th</sup>, McKernan School hosted its first Noche de Cultura. This magical evening, led by the Spanish bilingual students, featured several performances showcasing Spanish language and culture. The performances included dances, skits, live bands, and storytelling. Students choreographed their dances, wrote their own scripts and stories, and selected authentic songs for performance. The guests had the opportunity to participate in a raffle which included hand-made artwork by the students. The event also included the participation of the local Spanish speaking community through the contribution of food and other donated items such as decorations and a piñata.

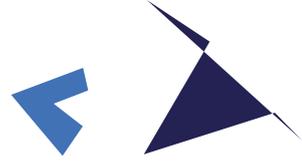
The purpose of the event was to showcase the culture and language of Spanish-speaking countries to family and friends through

performances led by

the students. Cultural events like Noche de Cultura allow students to participate in authentic experiences from cultures different from their own. The events also encourage participants to have an open mind regarding the society they live in and the people they interact in their community. El 13 de abril la escuela McKernan organizó su primera Noche de Cultura. Esta mágica noche, liderada por los estudiantes del programa bilingüe de español, incluyó actuaciones que mostraron la cultura y la lengua hispana a través de bailes, sketches, música en directo e historias. Los estudiantes coreografiaron sus propios bailes, escribieron los guiones de los sketches de las historias y seleccionaron las canciones que amenizaron el evento. Los asistentes tuvieron la oportunidad de participar en una rifa que contaba con obras de arte realizadas por los estudiantes. En el evento participaron algunas comunidades hispanohablantes de la ciudad que aportaron la gastronomía del evento y generosamente donaron objetos de decoración y una piñata.

La finalidad de esta noche era mostrar la cultura de los países hispanohablantes a sus familiares y amigos, mediante actuaciones que ellos mismos habían preparado después de semanas de duro trabajo.





## Calgary Board of Education, Alberta, Canada

### Qué Pasa Fine Arts Gala

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, the Calgary Board of Education's Spanish Bilingual Schools ranging from elementary to high schools, came together at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium to present and celebrate the Spanish language, culture and music in our presentation of Qué Pasa. celebrating various genres of music, ranging from folkloric/traditional to contemporary styles, represented the ten Spanish bilingual schools. Students performed in front of parents, families, and special guests, including our Chief Superintendent, Christopher Usih and other Educational Directors. Students showcased a variety of music representing Spain and other Latin American countries.



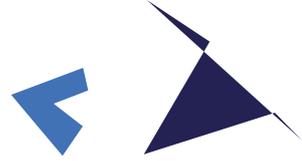
### Celebración de la gala "Qué pasa"



Las escuelas bilingües de español del Calgary Board of Education se reunieron el martes 2 de mayo en el Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium para presentar y celebrar el idioma, la cultura y la música en español en nuestra gala Qué Pasa. Aproximadamente 750 estudiantes de 10 escuelas primarias y secundarias

cantaron, bailaron y tocaron en las bandas de las escuelas interpretando y celebrando varios géneros musicales, desde estilos folclóricos/tradicionales hasta estilos contemporáneos. Los estudiantes actuaron frente a padres, familiares e invitados especiales, incluido el superintendente Christopher Usih y otros directores educativos. Los estudiantes exhibieron una variedad de música que representaba a España y otros países latinoamericanos.





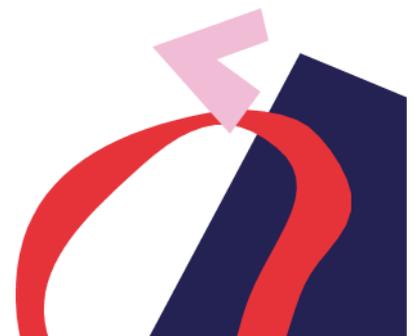
## Houston Burbank Middle School and Wharton Dual Language Academy, TX

**ISA students at Houston Burbank Middle School and Wharton Dual Language Academy play soccer with Real Madrid.**

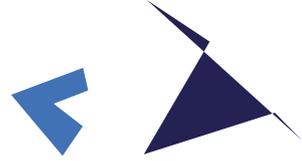
The ISA students at Houston Burbank Middle School and Wharton Dual Language Academy have had the opportunity to participate, at no cost, in the sports camp organized by TAS (Texas Academy of Soccer), empowered by the Real Madrid Foundation.



Both ISA program students and the Real Madrid FC are associated with Spanish language and culture, and are of great interest to students and their families. These training sessions, conducted in Spanish, have been an ideal way to motivate students to learn Spanish while bringing them closer to such an important Spanish cultural element as soccer in addition to the promotion of such important values as team-building, inclusion, empowerment and leadership. Opportunities like this one expand the use of the Spanish language to other content areas allowing students to incorporate the formal and informal language in settings outside the classroom while still enjoying the heart of the sport.



# News from the ISA network



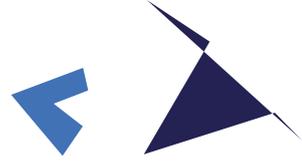
Los alumnos de la ISA de Houston Burbank Middle School y Wharton Dual Language Academy han tenido la oportunidad de participar, sin coste alguno, en el campamento deportivo organizado por TAS (Texas Academy of Soccer), patrocinado por la Fundación Real Madrid. Tanto los estudiantes del programa ISA como el Real Madrid FC están comprometidos con la difusión de la lengua y la cultura españolas, y son de gran interés para los estudiantes y sus familias. Estas sesiones de formación, realizadas en español, han sido una forma ideal de motivar a los estudiantes a aprender español y acercarlos a un elemento cultural español tan importante como es el fútbol, además de promover de valores tan importantes como el trabajo en equipo, la inclusión, el empoderamiento y el liderazgo.



Oportunidades como esta amplían el uso del idioma español a otras áreas de contenido, permitiendo a los estudiantes incorporar el lenguaje formal e informal en entornos fuera del aula mientras disfrutan del corazón del deporte.



# News from the ISA network



## John I. Leonard High School, FL

**Summary of relevant events, activities, and news from our school. Palm Beach, Florida.**

The students of the International Spanish Academy (ISA) celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by decorating the doors of our school's administrative building 15. The students made the decoration, and the theme of each door was related to various allegorical aspects, from each Spanish-speaking country. For example, the group that developed the Cuban flag investigated different parts of the island's culture as well as giving relevance to current social and political events. This activity allowed the students to exchange experiences related to the Hispanic tradition and created an atmosphere of celebration throughout the school since it took place in the main building. Likewise, several teachers from ISA and other programs collaborated on this project, such as Mrs. Rodas-Pina, Mr. Alvarado, and Mrs. Garcia-Mina.

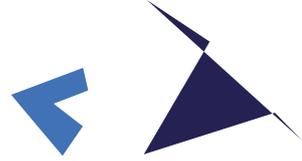


**Resumen de eventos, actividades y noticias relevantes de nuestra escuela. Palm Beach, Florida.**

Los alumnos de la International Spanish Academy (ISA) celebraron el Mes de la Hispanidad adornando las puertas del edificio administrativo de nuestra escuela y el edificio 15. La decoración fue elaborada por los alumnos y el tema de cada puerta estuvo relacionado con varios aspectos alegóricos de cada país hispanohablante. Por ejemplo, el grupo que elaboró la bandera cubana investigó sobre diferentes aspectos de la cultura de la isla dando relevancia a eventos sociales y políticos actuales. Esta actividad permitió a los alumnos intercambiar experiencias relacionadas con la tradición hispana e inundó de un ambiente de celebración a toda la escuela ya que se llevó a cabo en el edificio principal. Asimismo, en este proyecto colaboraron varios maestros de la ISA y de otros programas como por ejemplo Mrs. Rodas-Pina, Mr. Alvarado, and Mrs. Garcia-Mina.



# News from the ISA network



## John I. Leonard High School, FL

8<sup>th</sup>



### **ISA Leadership Meeting & Isa Student Symposium- Celebrating our bilingualism and biculturalism.**

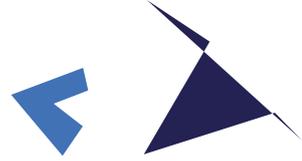
For the eighth consecutive year, our school hosts the meeting of leaders of the International Spanish Academy and the symposium of our students. These two events were held for the first time on the same day and the School District schools that participate in the ISA program were present during the leadership meeting. Likewise, district authorities were present to contribute and share enriching ideas about our mission to celebrate and preserve multiculturalism among our students.

### **Octava reunión de líderes y simposio de estudiantes: Celebrando el bilingüismo y la biculturalidad.**

Por octavo año consecutivo nuestra escuela fue la anfitriona de la reunión de líderes de la International Spanish Academy y del simposio de nuestros alumnos. Estos dos eventos se realizaron por primera vez en el mismo día. Durante la reunión de liderazgo, estuvieron presentes directores, maestros y alumnos de las escuelas del Distrito Escolar de Pal Beach que participaban en el programa ISA. Asimismo, los administradores aportaron y compartieron ideas enriquecedoras sobre el objetivo de compartir y salvaguardar la multiculturalidad entre nuestro alumnado.



# News from the ISA network



## New Horizons Elementary school, FL

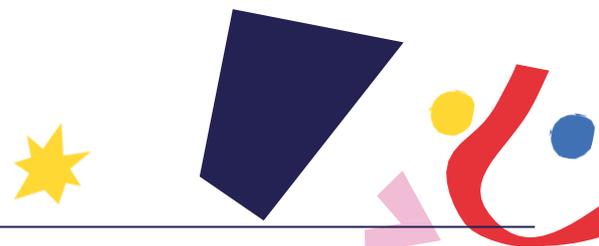
### **New Horizons Elementary School wins the III ISA Video Contest.**

Under the direction of Art teacher Mrs. Lynca Díaz, third-grade students participated in the ISA Video Contest. The theme was “I have a superpower: I am bilingual!”. Students created the video *Bilingüe hasta la luna* demonstrating their bilingual skills while narrating the story of the first bilingual flea to travel to the moon. This was a great opportunity to showcase the many benefits of students participating in the ISA program. New Horizons is proud to have earned 1st place in the ISA video contest for this 2022–2023 school year.



### **New Horizons Elementary gana el III concurso de vídeos ISA**

Bajo la dirección de la maestra de arte Sra. Lynca Díaz, los estudiantes de tercer grado participaron en el III concurso de vídeos ISA. El tema fue “Tengo un superpoder: ¡soy bilingüe!”. Los estudiantes crearon el vídeo “Bilingüe hasta en la luna”. Esta fue una gran oportunidad para mostrar los muchos beneficios de los estudiantes que participan en la ISA. New Horizons se enorgullece de haber obtenido el primer lugar en el concurso de vídeos de programa ISA para el curso escolar 2022–2023.



# News from the ISA network

## Okeehellee Middle School, FL

### The fun of being bilingual

The students in the International Spanish Academy at Okeehellee Middle School continued having a Dual Language Education of excellence while participating in many activities and cultural exchanges within the community and other Spanish speaking countries.



They enjoyed the trip to Bush Gardens in Tampa, FL representing the ISA with their new t-shirts with the logo and motto “Calidad y éxito. El mundo a tu alcance”, spending the day in the park on the rides and celebrating the pride of being an ISA student.

They participated with the local Norton Museum of Art visiting the galleries and performing during the ISA Family Day Celebration.

They received the visit of their partner school “Ludoteca” in Quito, Ecuador sharing with them the experiences in Dual Language Education and dancing and singing to commemorate cultures.



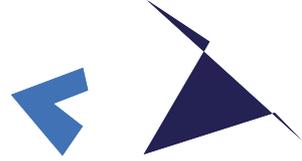
Students also represented the school and the ISA Education in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ISA Symposium celebrated in John I Leonard High School in the presence of the School District Board, Dual Language School Principals, teachers, and the rest of the Dual Language Community.



Lo divertido de ser bilingüe



# News from the ISA network



Los estudiantes de la ISA Okeehelée Middle School no sólo reciben una educación bilingüe de calidad, sino que también participan en muchas actividades e intercambios con su comunidad y con otros países de habla hispana.

Los estudiantes se

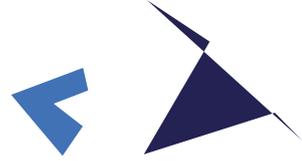
divirtieron y disfrutaron en la excursión a los jardines Bush en Tampa, FL representando a la ISA con sus nuevas camisetas con el logo “Calidad y éxito. El mundo a tu alcance”, disfrutando del día en el parque con las atracciones y celebrando el orgullo de ser estudiante ISA.

Los estudiantes visitaron las galerías del Museo de arte Norton y actuando durante la celebración del Día de las familias ISA.

La escuela “Ludoteca” con la que comparten intercambios educativos visitó el centro escolar y tuvieron la oportunidad de compartir experiencias sobre la educación bilingüe y celebrar una jornada de cantes y bailes para conmemorar sus culturas.

Otro momento especial fue la participación Enel 8° simposio anual de centros ISA celebrado en el Instituto John I Leonard en presencia del consejero de educación del distrito, los directores y directoras de las escuelas, los profesores y el resto de la comunidad educativa bilingüe.





## Celebrating events highlighting our diversity and culture

Here are some events we had during the 2022–2023 school year.

- Hispanic Heritage Celebration/ Celebración de la herencia hispana
- Taste of Art/ El gusto del arte.

### Hispanic Heritage Celebration

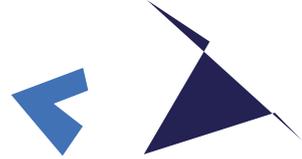
Every year Berkshire Elementary hosts a Multicultural Celebration for our community. This year we had our School-wide Parade and Hispanic Heritage Night Celebration. During the Parade, our K–5<sup>th</sup> students dressed in traditional costumes and walked around the school to highlight the diversity in our community and celebrate their backgrounds, heritage, and culture. In addition, for the first time after the Pandemic, our families were invited to our campus for Hispanic Celebration, where our students feature their ethnicity with dance presentations, poem, and much more.

### Hispanic Heritage Celebration



Cada año, la escuela de primaria Berkshire Elementary organiza una celebración multicultural para su comunidad. En el evento destaca el tradicional desfile escolar con una celebración de la Noche de la herencia hispana. Durante el desfile, los estudiantes de Kinder a 5<sup>o</sup> grado se vistieron con trajes tradicionales y caminaron por la escuela para resaltar a diversidad en la comunidad y celebrar sus orígenes, herencia y cultura. Además, por primera vez después de la pandemia, todas las familias fueron invitadas a la escuela para celebrar la Noche hispana, en la que los estudiantes compartieron presentaciones de baile, declamación de poemas y mucho más.



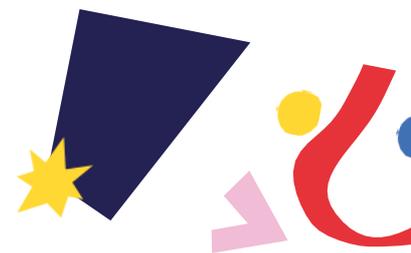


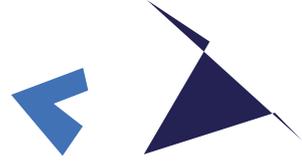
Mr. Écija, one of the Visiting Teachers from Spain, carried out this project with the school Salliver in Fuengirola, Spain. Writing and Math were the focus of the activity. The students had to write an instructional text detailing and listing the steps needed to make their recipes. At the same time, they had to incorporate quantities expressed in fractions, since it was the content unit that students were learning about. The experience was very positive, and everyone enjoyed the process while preparing the recipes with their parents or classmates. They could see and compare with the recipes they received from the partner school.

**Aprendemos recetas con ISA.**



El Sr. Écija, uno de los profesores visitantes de España en Berkshire Elementary, llevó a cabo este proyecto en colaboración con el colegio Salliver de Fuengirola, España. La escritura y las matemáticas fueron el centro de la actividad. Los estudiantes tenían que escribir un texto detallando y enumerando los pasos necesarios para hacer sus recetas. Al mismo tiempo, debían incorporar en el texto los ingredientes y las cantidades expresadas en fracciones, ya que era el tema que ambos grupos de alumnos estaban aprendiendo. La experiencia fue muy positiva y todos disfrutaron del proceso mientras preparaban las recetas con sus padres o compañeros y veían y aprendían de las recetas que les llegaban del colegio Salliver.





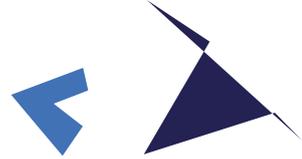
The Taste of Art is an interactive lesson in which different areas, such as art, mathematics, language, and culture, are integrated. It is a lesson that facilitates the full expression of the tastes and feelings of children. The students learn to draw their favorite dessert by knowing the difference between figures (2D) and shapes (3D). Students guided by their art teacher, Mr. Mora, used acrylic on canvas. At the end of the lesson, there was an exhibition where students presented their work to teachers and staff. In the end, students and staff could taste the delicious desserts that the students represented in their portraits.

## El sabor del arte

El gusto del arte es una lección interactiva en la que se integran diferentes áreas como el arte, las matemáticas, el lenguaje y la cultura. Es una lección que facilita la plena expresión de los gustos y sentimientos de los niños. Los estudiantes aprenden a dibujar su postre

favorito conociendo la diferencia entre figuras (2D) y formas (3D). El alumnado, guiado por su profesora de arte, la Sra. Mora, utilizó acrílico sobre lienzo. Al final de la lección, hubo una exhibición donde los estudiantes presentaron su trabajo a los maestros y al personal de la escuela. Al final, el alumnado y el personal del centro pudieron degustar los deliciosos postres que quedaron plasmados en los lienzos.





## International Film Festival In Utah (IFFU)



Lights, Camera, Spanish! Once again, NDPA presented the III International Film Festival in Utah (IFFU) led by its director Jaime Duarte. Our 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish students and their teachers immersed themselves in workshops where they learned how to script, produce, and edit their short films. They attended panels and lectures by great

directors, screenwriters, and producers from Latin America, delving into the enchanting world of film.

Through the program, not only do they hone their skills, but they also embrace the Spanish language with passion and creativity. The festival provided a unique and enriching experience, fostering learning and self-expression among our students. It's been an extraordinary journey for all involved, showcasing the incredible power of film in language acquisition.

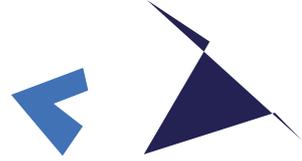
## Festival internacional de cine en Utah (IFFU)

Luces, cámara, ¡español! Un año más, NDPA presentó el III Festival internacional de cine en Utah (IFFU), de la mano de su director Jaime Duarte. Nuestros alumnos de español de 4<sup>º</sup> a 9<sup>º</sup> grado y su profesorado se sumergieron en talleres donde aprendieron a escribir guiones, producir y editar sus cortometrajes. Asistieron a paneles y conferencias de grandes directores, guionistas y productores de América Latina, adentrándose en el maravilloso mundo del cine.

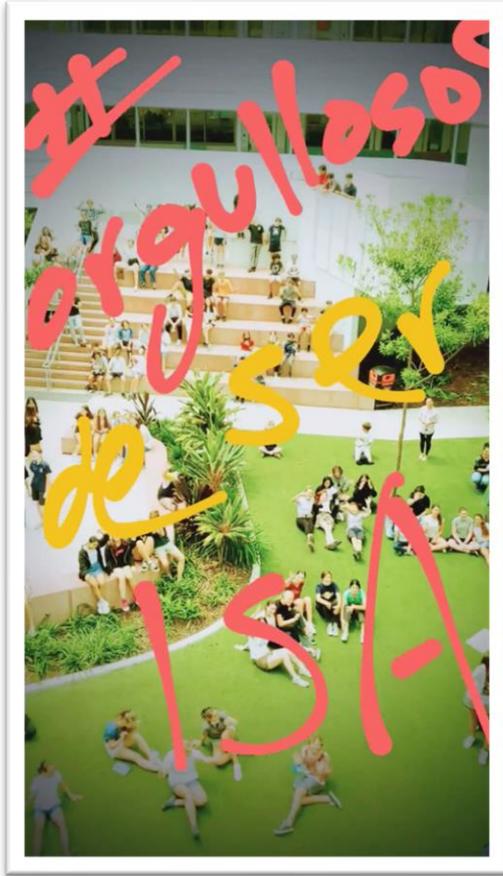
A través del arte cinematográfico, no sólo perfeccionaron sus habilidades, sino que también abrazaron la lengua española con pasión y creatividad. El festival proporcionó una experiencia única y enriquecedora, fomentando el aprendizaje y a la autoexpresión entre nuestros estudiantes. Ha sido un viaje extraordinario para todos que ha puesto de manifiesto el increíble poder del cine en la adquisición de idiomas.



# The ISA program in the world



## Indooroopilly State High School, Australia



1. Could you give us a brief outline of your school and what being part of the ISA network means for your school and Educational Community?

Indooroopilly State High School is a co-educational public school in Queensland, Australia, with 2830 students, over 1000 of which study Spanish. Our Spanish Immersion Program has been in operation for 15 years, and our 12 Spanish teachers share their love of Spanish language and culture with students through their subjects taught 100% in Spanish. Students also love learning through our fiestas, film festivals, piñatas, paella and Picasso! We are proud to be the first Australian ISA.

2. What benefits would you highlight as being part of the ISA network?

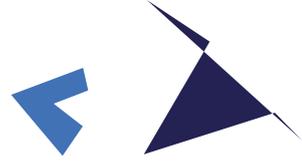
Being part of the ISA network provides opportunities for teachers to access professional development, and for students to take part in competitions, access learning resources, and further develop their Spanish language skills through DELE testing and the Instituto Cervantes. We have been lucky to have had visits from the Spanish Embassy in Australian and the Spanish Ambassador – an incredible privilege for students and staff here at Indooroopilly State High School.

3. How do you think being part of the ISA network impacts your students and families?

Parents and students value that our school and our Spanish Immersion program has been designated an ISA because it affirms the quality learning in our classrooms and the impressive outcomes of our students.



# The ISA program in the world



Students benefit from teacher up-skilling and access to resources. Our connection with the Spanish Embassy in Australia complements our international affiliations with the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate (IB).

## 4. How do you interact with other schools in the ISA network and how would like to strengthen your participation in the ISA network?

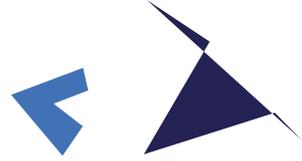
At the moment we are the only ISA in Australia (exciting, though a little lonely at times 😊), but we welcome the opportunity to collaborate and work with other ISAs, both within Oceania and across the broader worldwide network of ISAs. Leveraging online platforms provides opportunities to work across borders, so perhaps the next step will be working with an ISA in Europe or North America! We would love to share ideas and experiences and build our global community.

## 5. What are the challenges and expectations that you have as part of the ISA network?

Being isolated geographically can be a challenge when it comes to building our network, but we are looking forward to the opportunities to develop partnerships in other parts of the world. Curriculum pressure and assessment can, at times, limit engagement with the competitions and projects promoted by the Spanish Embassy in Australia. We aspire to have more students test their Spanish proficiency through DELE exams which will support their work and study aspirations.



# The ISA program in the world



## Louis St. Laurent, Alberta, Canada

### 1. Could you give us a brief outline of your school and what being part of the ISA network means for your school and Educational Community?

Being part of the ISA network provides here at Louis St. Laurent means people from all over the world have joined our school community from grades 7–12. We are fortunate in that we have students in junior high and students in senior high all in under one roof. Because students remain in our building for 6 years, we are able to build on the program and share activities, retreats and special events.

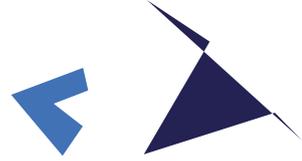


### 2. What benefits would you highlight as being part of the ISA network?

Belonging to ISA means students have the opportunity to receive outstanding programming due to the percentage of Spanish speaking classes required by the organization. With 35% of programming required for students in Grade 7–9 and 25 credits required by students in Grade 10–12, we have been able to be creative with our options in Spanish ensuring the students enjoy their experience. This year we will take our Grade 9's on a one-week Spanish field trip to Telus World Of Science.



# The ISA program in the world



### 3. How do you think being part of the ISA network impacts your students and families?

Being part of the ISA program has opened us up to opportunities that involve professional development for teachers. It has enabled us to experience Spanish Educational Assistants from Spain join our classes making them rich with the Spanish language and culture. The ISA network has brought many families together during celebrations and ceremonies at Louis St. Laurent. This year we welcomed our Grade 6 feeder schools to join us in our first ever ISA certificate ceremony where we had singers and dancers share in the Spanish culture. Seeing the excitement on the younger students' faces was incredibly valuable and rewarding.

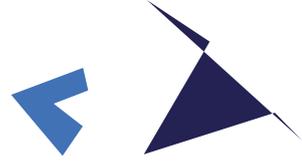
### 4. How do you interact with other schools in the ISA network and how would like to strengthen your participation in the ISA network?

Being able to connect with other ISA schools in our division and across the province has enabled Louis St. Laurent students' exposure to new events and activities. We truly wish to continue to improve how we deliver the program.

### 5. What are the challenges and expectations that you have as part of the ISA network?

At Louis St. Laurent, the challenge we have is retention of students upon entering grade 10. We are reimagining how to create the bilingual program enabling students to register for other options, other than just Spanish, during their high school years. Education is filled with many wonderful opportunities, and we can only hope that students remain in the program as a lifelong learner.





## Okeeheelee Middle School

1. Could you give us a brief outline of your school and what being part of the ISA network means for your school and Educational Community?

Okeeheelee Middle School was the first International Spanish Academy in the USA. Since 2004 we have been involved in the ISA network as a member and as a model school.

We have received visits from many schools and educational districts to learn about our curriculum and the dual language immersion program of studies.

Within our school district, we consider ourselves the heart of the ISA programs which include elementary, middle, and high schools. We coordinate the community and district leadership meetings and are intimately involved in coordinating and participating in ISA events throughout the year.

Our sense of responsibility is to continue improving programs while maintaining our role as a leading school in the ISA network.



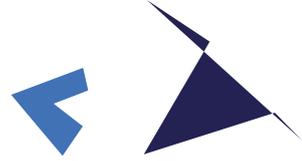
2. What benefits would you highlight as being part of the ISA network?

One of the benefits of being an ISA school is the collaboration with other schools within the network, not only in our district but also

in other states. Our teachers and students have the opportunity to participate in learning experiences with Spanish as the common language.

Initiatives such as the "ISA Institute" offer a platform to collaborate with colleagues as we understand common challenges and discover solutions to creating and maintaining excellent dual language education programs.

# The ISA program in the world



### 3. How do you think being part of the ISA network impacts your students and families?

The ISA program at Okeeheelee was established almost 20 years ago. The school is well known and appreciated in the community. Many former ISA students are currently involved as academic tutors, staff, volunteers and we have many younger siblings or family members as current students.

The families understand the benefits of being bilingual, especially in South Florida. Each year we increase the number of students enrolled in the ISA. We work hard to provide a world class education and the families recognize it.

### 4. How do you interact with other schools in the ISA network and how would like to strengthen your participation in the ISA network?

We interact with other ISA schools constantly. Within the school district we have at least three formal leadership meetings per year. As a group of ISA principal's, we meet often to coordinate the topics being addressed at the meetings and create interesting, engaging content. In the formal leadership meetings, we address topics that impact the dual language programs, discuss recent research and often hear from successful ISA teachers and students.

The ISA schools hold an annual student symposium to showcase student talent and bilingualism. Many family and community members attend the celebratory event.

We plan to extend this collaboration to schools and districts from other States, maybe countries in the near future.



### 5. What are the challenges and expectations that you have as part of the ISA network?

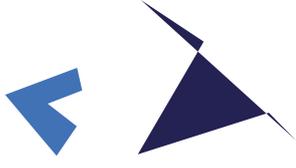
Our biggest challenge is to educate families and the community of the importance of being bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.

Many schools offer interesting, attractive programs of study that compete with the dual language programs. The simple fact is that being bilingual will offer more opportunities than a bilingual program.

The ISA K-12 model is established in the USA, Canada and now will begin in Australia but we would love to be able to offer college education with some kind of scholarship to students that have completed the program in the USA and would like to study abroad in a Spanish speaking country.



# The ISA program in the world



## The Alberta Spanish Bilingual Consortium Subcommittee

Alberta has a long tradition of offering international language programs in the K–12 school system. There are provincial *language and culture* and *bilingual* programs available and school divisions have the capacity to choose which program(s) to offer.

In 2001, School Districts, Universities, and other institutions teaching Spanish as a second language in Alberta agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to create the Alberta Spanish Language Education Consortium. The purpose was: “to work together to address issues of common concern in growing and supporting quality Spanish education.” The Consortium has met twice a year since 2001. The signing institutions are responsible for:

- sending a representative to the two annual general Consortium meetings for the exchange of information and selection and planning of projects of mutual interest.
- chairing these meetings, preparing and distributing a meeting summary, and acting as Consortium contact during the rotational basis.

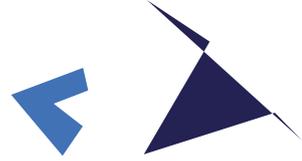
The Spanish bilingual programs under the umbrella of the International Spanish Academy (ISA) program began implementation in 2001 in Alberta and the members of the Consortium felt that the school divisions needed a second body to deal with the specific challenges that the Spanish bilingual programs brought. Therefore, they created the **Spanish Bilingual Consortium Subcommittee** to address those needs in 2004.

The Spanish Bilingual Consortium Subcommittee has met twice a year since 2004 and the divisions offering Spanish bilingual programs chair the meetings on a rotary basis.

The Spanish Bilingual Consortium Subcommittee’s goal is to facilitate collaboration for carrying out mutually beneficial projects which will address the needs of quality Spanish bilingual language education, such as:

- marketing and promotion,
  - learning resource development and publication, or learning resource acquisition,
  - curriculum development and implementation support,
  - development and implementation of standards of student language proficiency,
  - student assessment,
  - student and educator international experiences, including exchanges,
  - teacher preservice, preparation and recruitment,
  - research into Spanish language learning and teaching,
  - professional development of educators, and
  - advocacy.
- 

# The ISA program in the world



The principals in the Spanish bilingual schools, the Spanish Education Advisor (who represents the Minister of Education of Spain and the ISA network, based in Alberta Education), and the Languages Consultants from all the divisions with Spanish bilingual programs are invited to participate in the Spanish Bilingual Consortium Subcommittee and share their experiences and expertise. All the previous agendas and minutes are available in a shared folder. The divisions that start a Spanish bilingual program will be invited to the meetings and will be granted access to the shared folder with all the previous information.

The Spanish Bilingual Consortium Subcommittee has been a very powerful forum for the districts to share and to learn about innovative pedagogics in Spanish language teaching, to identify and to create collaboratively resources for Spanish and the subject areas taught in Spanish, and to get familiarized with cultural activities organized by schools and divisions. It has also been very useful to maintain a fluent contact with the Spanish Education Advisor and the ISA network in North America.



# Resources for DL/ Bilingual programs



## Procomun & Leer.es

Procomun and Leer.es are two websites sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of Spain, where you will find many educational resources.

On the Procomun website, these resources are graded according to different learning levels (Elementary, Middle/ Junior High and High School), which will make your search easier. There is a wide range of subjects so we are sure that you will find something that will work for your teaching practice.

In regard to Leer.es, besides activities and resources to enhance our students' reading practice, you will find guides to foster creative writing among your students. There is one for elementary education and another one for Middle and High School.

We would love to read your feedback. If you create some activities you would like to share with our ISA network, please let us know on [isa@educacion.gob.es](mailto:isa@educacion.gob.es)

Or simply if you implement some of the resources from these websites and you want to let us know how well they worked for you and your students, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We hope you like Procomun and Leer.es



# The International Spanish Academies Program



## Social Media

Check out our social media for more information about the program:

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Youtube](#)

If you post activities or news on your social media about your ISA school, please don't forget to include our hashtag [#ProudtoBeISA](#) and/or [#OrgullososdeSerISA](#).

## ISA INSTITUTE

The Education Office of Spain and the ISA program are planning to host a new edition of the ISA Institute in Chicago during ACTFL Conference 2023. Please check out our social media for more information.



Coming soon!

## Professional Development for ISA schools

We are preparing new Professional development courses for ISA teachers. We will publish all the information about it on our social media and website in the fall.

## ISA Calendar

If you want to keep updated about the activities the ISA program organizes and get to know about other events from the Education Office of the Embassy of Spain, check out our [calendar](#).

## ISA website

For more information about our program, please visit our [website](#).

[#OrgullososdeSerISA](#)  
[#ProudtoBeISA](#)  
[isa@educacion.gob.es](mailto:isa@educacion.gob.es)

