



Ideas for **2005: YEAR OF LANGUAGES**

This is a partial list.

Groups & Places You can Target:

Here are a number of groups and places you may want to contact with information, a letter, posters, etc., in order to get their support and involvement in the year of languages activities.

1. Hospitals; Health Care Clinics; Health Care Staff; Dental Offices; Pharmacies, etc.
2. Police Departments; Fire Fighters; Libraries; Museums; (Video) Stores; Supermarkets, etc.
3. Public Transportation: City / School Busses; City Cabs; Livery Services; Trains (Sub-way),
4. Religious (Church / Synagogue) Organizations & Groups; Conventions; Conferences
5. Service Organizations:
Kiwanis Club; Key Club; Circle K Club; Rotary Club; American Legion; etc.
Boy / Girl Scouts of America; YMCA; YWCA; etc. (check Yellow Pages)
6. Gay Lesbian Bisexual Trans-Gendered Organizations
7. Restaurants; Bars; Dance Clubs; Pubs (*create Bar Cards to place in these venues*)
8. Barber Shops; Hair Salons; Beauty Salons; Manicure/ Pedicure Salons, etc.
9. Movie Theatres, Amusement Parks (i.e. Six Flags, Lake Compounce, the Big E)

Forms of Advertised Awareness & Education

*Have the following materials made (inexpensively) so that you can **celebrate, educate** and **communicate the importance / numerous benefits of language study e v e r y w h e r e !***

1. Bookmarks, Address Labels, Personal Checks, Decorative Stamps (for envelopes), etc.
2. (Holiday) Greeting Cards (Language Learning Interests / Tips inside); Gift Calendars.
3. Car (license) Plates, Bumper Stickers, Regular Stickers (for stationary) etc.
4. Consumer Products (i.e. cereal boxes)

For more information:

Richard de Meij ● Sedgwick Middle School ● (860) 570-6500 (ext. 1230) ● rdemeij@yahoo.com



Ideas for Activities and Events

COMMUNITY MINI-LANGUAGE COURSES / MUSIC CONCERTS

Help Religious Organizations (or your local church/temple) provide mini-language learning classes (as a community service) to their congregations, their immediate communities and surroundings. Also, have children in these congregations or communities learn songs in a variety of languages in order to eventually plan a *world languages music concert*. You might call this: "Children of God – Singing in Tongues!"

"CONNECTICUT – IDOL"

Organize and have "*Connecticut Idol*" competitions in your school and/or district, in which students, in order to participate, must sing live in a foreign language. You might call this: "Connecticut Idol – Singing in Tongues!"

STUDENTS MENTORING TEACHERS

Create and start a "*Students mentoring Teachers*" program at your school: Assign an ongoing class project in which each student finds a teacher for whom he/she will be a mentor in the language learning experience. There are two goals to this project:

- to eventually have EVERY teacher (and staff member) in the school (district) involved in learning/studying/practicing a (new) language; CAL (Computer Assisted Learning) may be used.
- to have each student improve his/her own language learning skills, through teaching (mentoring) another person, and to experience being a language teacher, which hopefully will inspire or awaken the desire in the student to become a language teacher in the future.

The expectation is that the student meets once a week with the teacher he/she will be mentoring. During this brief weekly meeting, the student shares (and applies) "*best practices*" for successful language learning with the teacher, supports and encourages the teacher, assesses and discusses the teacher's progress, practices the language being studied (when possible), etc. The student is then expected to produce a written report each marking period on the progress, activities and experiences he/she and the teacher share.

A LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN FOR LANGUAGE

Have students write a letter (of encouragement, or about their language learning experiences) to important or prominent people in their community. Also target the owners of popular stores and other places to which students often go. (i.e. The GAP, Abercrombie and Fitch, Filenes, Sports Authority, The Banana Republic, etc.) Also, have students write an article (or editorial) to be placed in the local newspaper(s). Try to get an article or editorial in your local newspaper(s) each week. (This is a very ambitious goal, but certainly one worth aiming for!)

ADVOCACY BOOKMARKS

Have students (or yourself) make colorful bookmarks featuring a "catchy" phrase, slogan, proverb or message about language, language learning and/or about being or becoming multilingual. Include clipart, pictures or graphics, then laminate them and put them in visible locations, such as libraries, local restaurants, stores, hair salons, doctors offices, etc. (see list of *groups and places* on previous page) For some already made colorful, attractive and original language bookmarks recently created, contact me-Richard (*info below*).

PUT A LANGUAGE LEARNING SIGN ON YOUR HOME MAILBOX

Create a colorful, attractive sign with some interesting fact(s) (benefits) about language learning, and stick this on your home mailbox where your mail courier (and others) will see this, every day.

A TEE-SHIRT MAKING CAMPAIGN / FUNDRAISER / COMPETITION

Have your school, the PTO, or each student donate clear "plain" (mostly very cheap) T-shirts, on which each student is to create (paint) a "slogan," or some "smart phrase," a language quote, or a language learning benefit/fact. You may choose to do this as simply a class/school project for a grade, or a competition, or a school fundraiser for your class/school. If you chose to do a fundraiser, a neat, nice, elegant "catalog" should be made in which you have a scanned picture of each T-shirt (with its cost). Show this catalogue around.

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Continued from previous page: [More Ideas...](#)

THROW A (FREE) INTERNATIONAL PARTY AT YOUR HOME

Organize and throw a free, fun, happy and informative party/celebration/dinner (or whatever you want to call it) at your home, or elsewhere, during which you have a multicultural and multilingual theme going. Provide yummy international goodies. Have a variety of informative (bright & colorful) promotional brochures, bookmarks, or other "Year of Language" stuff available. Or, organize a neighborhood foreign movie & snacks night. Take a brief moment at that event to introduce yourself, thank everyone for coming, and mention the importance and numerous benefits of language study/learning.

CREATE POSTERS WITH ILLUSTRATED FAMOUS LANGUAGE QUOTES

So where can one find famous language quotes? Try the Internet. Do a search for "*language quotes*." If you don't have time to do this, I have already done this for you! Contact me to get the list of famous language quotes I have compiled over time. The list will then be sent to you by e-mail attachment. Have your students look at the list, chose a favorite quote, then create a poster featuring, and creatively / colorfully illustrating that chosen famous language quote. This could be a competition, or just simply a fun language project. The finished posters could then be auctioned off, or donated, which then could be displayed in visible places.

SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERTS & SCHOOL PLAYS

If your school has a choir, talk to the choir teacher(s) about adding songs to the choir's repertoire, in the languages the students at your school are studying. Then, when your choir has a school or town concert, the students will have the opportunity to showcase their ability to sing and perform in foreign languages as well.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB MUSIC AND DANCES

Write a letter to, or call local dance clubs in your town to set up a brief meeting. Talk about the *Year Of Languages* initiative goals. Get dance clubs, and their DJ's, to organize *international* dance music theme nights. Isn't it kind of sad that with all that excellent contemporary dance music out there in the world, from many different countries, and in many different languages, all you hear is, mostly to exclusively, American/English dance mixes, and occasionally, some Latino music, played in clubs? It is as if there were no other country or language in which there is good, well-produced, worthwhile dance music. With the Year Of Languages, we can change this! Note: you might have to supply the international dance music. Your local DJ's might not know of, or have many options. Excellent modern dance music to consider:

- from Brazil: *Samba, Axé, Forro, Brazilian Reggae & Rap*
- from Latin America: *Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, Cha-Cha, Tango, etc.*
- from The Caribbean: *Soca music, Calypso, Tumba, Cadance, Mazurka and others*
- from Europe: *Endless possibilities! (Lots of great Greek, German bands & dance music)*
- from Africa: *Endless possibilities!*
- from Asia: *Endless possibilities!*

Try to get these DJ's to buy into this. It may be challenging, but it is certainly worth the try! Also suggest to the dance club managers to have (maybe once every two months) international dance competitions, or international dance lessons.

RADIO TALK SHOW INTERVIEW

Contact a local radio station and seek to arrange an on-the-air radio station interview for your students, with regard to the importance and multiple benefits of language study, and with regard to their experiences and goals in language study. Your students would have to be well prepped for this radio station interview.

SENIOR CITIZEN HOMES

Get your students to become involved in a senior citizen-youth buddy program, in which students do volunteer work (maybe once a week) at a senior citizen home, develops a buddy relationship with some members at the home, and seek to learn and share about various languages and cultures represented in that home. Or, as a community service project, organize an international entertainment evening at that home.

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