

ESL Newsletter

Governor's ESL Strategies Institute for 2005

Would you like to spend a relaxing week this summer at a beautiful, pastoral college in eastern Pennsylvania, where every meal is a culinary delight, your room is clean and quiet with a beautiful view, you attend classes and learn new ideas with other eager professionals and make friends, and you receive two graduate credits toward Act 48 or your Master's Equivalency...and there is NO COST to you at all (except to get there and back)? Sound too good to be true?

Yes, it can happen to you! I am talking about the Governor's School for ESL Strategies (July 17-23). You can be an ESL teacher or administrator, or even a content area teacher, and you may complete the application. In fact, if you have a friend or two in your district that is

interested, believe it or not, the Governor's school prefers groups of three or more from each district! Classes are arranged, too, so that if you are an administrator, you will learn what you need, and the same goes if you are an ESL teacher or a content area teacher!

To find out more information, go to the iu08.org website, click on the PDE website on the right-hand side of your

screen, and when you see the PDE homepage, type in the key words, "Governor's School for ESL Strategies," and it will take you to the site where you can get more information and an application. Don't delay...Do this now, and remember, your chances are much better if two or more people apply from your district! Please let me add one more exciting note: You will get to sit next to Leonard Shurin in all of your classes!



Grants for Your District and Students



Have you heard of the Immigration Curriculum Project? The American Immigration Law Foundation will grant awards ranging from \$500 to \$1000 to K-12 educators

who teach immigration projects. You might want to add this to your ESL classes as a project! This is for any grade, K-12; the deadline is **March 31, 2005**. However, the

application isn't very lengthy or difficult, but you do need to have an idea of what you want to do! Download the form at: www.aifl.org/pubed/tc_index.asp. Good luck!

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“Teacher Feature”: Conemaugh Valley’s ESL Program Specialist

Our featured teacher this edition is Cheri Grimaldi. Cheri lives in Nanty-Glo with her husband, Dave and their three boys: Gavin, 6; Garrett, 2 ½; and Grant, 9 months old. A teacher for 15 years, Cheri has Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Elementary Education and is an ESL Program Specialist. She currently is working toward her D.ED. She is the ESL coordinator and instructor at Conemaugh Valley School District, and has created an outstanding ESL program!



Cheri Grimaldi

“Teaching is the most rewarding career anyone could ask for,” says Cheri. “When you see that smile on your student’s face, when the student grasps the concept or accomplishes something, it is all worth it!” With an attitude like that, it’s no wonder Cheri was honored as “Teachers Making a Difference” for being a model teacher to her students!

Cheri currently teaches four Russian students—ages 10, 12, 13, and 14, all siblings. When they arrived in the U.S., they did not speak any English and Cheri had to start them at Proficiency Level One on the Woodcock-Munoz English language proficiency scale.

With that came many challenges and obstacles to overcome, but the children have done very well, and they are adjusting to their new environment and culture nicely.

Cheri designs motivating lessons to actively involve her students in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They are doing well and have bonded with her as she has with them. Cheri says, “I love working with my ESL students! They truly are remarkable kids and I love them dearly!”

Don’t forget these two PDE required reports, please...

Usually between February 1 and March 31 of every year, PDE requires all school districts to file two distinctly different reports to them that are related to LEP students.

These reports must be filed even if the district has NO LEP students.

The first report is officially called the Harcourt CERVS Database report by PDE, but is more commonly known as the Harcourt testing report. This report (as you may have noticed in my emails) was due February 28, but still may be completed by emailing Harcourt at pa@harcourt.com. If you forgot

your password/ID, telephone Sharon Schultz at Harcourt, 800-228-0752, ext. 5610.

The other report is accessed through the ePDE web portal at the PDE website, for which you will need a password/ID. This report was due March 31. If you do not have a password/ID for this portal, you must ask your business manager to issue you a password/ID to do the LEP school and district reports (the school reports are done first, then the district report last).

If you experience a problem with this report, you may contact Leonard Shurin or the tech guy, “Tucker,” at PDE, by telephoning 717-783-6686.