



# Project Bridge Newsletter

## The Languages of Mexico

March 2005

Volume 2, Issue 8

When most of us think of the native language of our ENL students from Mexico, we automatically think of Spanish. While Spanish is the official language of Mexico, many of us may be surprised to learn that there are 62 living indigenous languages throughout the country.\* The Spanish language is not indigenous to Mexico, but was introduced as a result of the Spanish Conquest.

Of the 62 indigenous languages, two are spoken by the largest groups. Náhuatl is spoken by 2,563,000 people.\* This language comes from the Aztec civilization, which originated around the 14th century. Some Náhuatl words have been incorporated into Mexican Spanish, such as "chiquito," meaning very small, and easily recognizable words such as "chocolate" and "tomate."\*\*

ture, A.D.\*\*\* It is suggested that Maya has had a larger impact on Mexican Spanish than vice versa, except in cases where Spanish words were adopted for things that were unknown to the Maya people prior to the Spanish Conquest.\*\*\*

As we work with our Mexican ENL students, it is important for us not only to consider their second language needs, but to be considerate of their true native languages. As the power of assimilation threatens to destroy indigenous languages, we, as teachers of ENL students, are in a unique position that allows us to contribute to these languages' preservation by showing our interest and respect to them and to the students who carry them to us.

A living language is one that is still in regular use by its cultural group. Mexico, with 62, is second only to India, which has 65. Mexico has a very large indigenous population, especially when compared to a country like the U.S.A., which is made up of a combination of indigenous cultures and a large population of immigrants and the ancestral lines of previous immigrant groups. Because of its large indigenous population, it makes sense that so many of Mexico's languages remain.



Náhuatl glyph, representing Toluca, capital of the state of Mexico, and meaning "Where the head is bowed down."\*\*

The second most prominent living indigenous Mexican language is Maya, which is spoken by 1,490,000 people.\* Maya predates Náhuatl, going back to the second cen-

\*facts and figures taken from <http://www.elbalero.gob.mx/kids/about/html/indigenous/lenguas.html>  
\*\*facts and figures taken from <http://www.azteca.net/aztec/nahuatl/index.shtml>  
\*\*\*facts and figures taken from [www.mayadiscovery.com](http://www.mayadiscovery.com)

### Teacher Tips:

The following tip is from [atozteacher-stuff.com](http://atozteacher-stuff.com):

**Compliments**, by Anonymous: Cut out the letters for the word COMPLIMENT. Each time the class receives a compliment from faculty, parents, visitors, etc., they earn a letter. Once the class has received all the letters to the word, reward them with a special privilege. For example, popcorn/coke party, movie day, game day or treats that they like.

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## Indianapolis' Mexican Consulate

The Mexican Consulate in Indianapolis opened in November, 2002 in downtown's Union Station. This was a tremendous occasion in a city that has a large Mexican immigrant population. By opening the Mexican Consulate, the

Mexican government and the state of Indiana have been able to work together to provide "assistance and protection to (Mexican) nationals."\* The Consulate also serves as the Mexican government's link with Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio on various social

and political matters. For more information, visit the Consulate at 39 W. Jackson Place, Suite #103, or go to [www.consulmexindy.com](http://www.consulmexindy.com).  
\*<http://www.indygov.org/eGov/Mayor/PR/2002/11/20021122c.htm>

# March 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Solo Teaching Phase-In	2 Solo Teaching Phase-In	3 Solo Teaching Phase-In	4 Solo Teaching Phase-In	5
6	7 Solo Teaching Phase-In	8 Solo Teaching Phase-In	9 Solo Teaching Phase-In	10 Solo Teaching Phase-In	11 Solo Teaching Phase-In	12
13	14 Solo Teaching	15 Solo Teaching	16 Solo Teaching	17 Solo Teaching	18 Solo Teaching	19
20	21 Solo Teaching	22 Solo Teaching	23 Solo Teaching	24 Solo Teaching	25 Solo Teaching	26
27 Easter	28 Solo Teaching	29 Solo Teaching	30 Solo Teaching	31 Solo Teaching		

## Schedule of Events

March is Women's History

- ✓ **March 2** — Dr. Seuss born, 1904
- ✓ **March 3** — Constitution Day, Japan
- ✓ **March 6** — The Alamo falls the Mexico, 1836
- ✓ **March 8** — International Women's Day
- ✓ **March 10** — Harriet Tubman (abolitionist) died, 1913
- ✓ **March 12** — Gandhi leads civil disobedience march to the sea against British rule in India, 1930
- ✓ **March 15** — National Day, Hungary; Ides of March
- ✓ **March 17** — St. Patrick's Day; Constitution Day, Norway
- ✓ **March 19** — First lunar eclipse recorded by humans, Babylon, 721 B.C.
- ✓ **March 20** — Vernal Equinox: first day of spring
- ✓ **March 21** — Johann Sebastian Bach born, 1685
- ✓ **March 23** — National Day of Pakistan
- ✓ **March 26** — Robert Frost (poet) born, 1874
- ✓ **March 30** — Vincent Van Gogh born, 1853

## Events

**March 2** : "Bone Breakfast": The Humane Society will offer breakfast to the public on Monument Circle from 7am—9am to recognize those who have made donations to the "Pass the Bone" effort.

**March 5 and 6**: Great Lakes Native American Arts and Crafts Workshop at the Indiana Historical Society, 8am—4pm; cost to attend is \$55.

**March 13**: St. Francis Distance Classic Run and Walk: 8th annual 15k run and 4 mile walk begins at 9am at the IUPUI Natatorium; call (318) 884-4001 for more information.

**March 18**: "Moonlight Madness" egg hunt at Broadripple Park; ages 4—10, \$8.00 fee, register by contacting Beth Krouch (bkrouch@indygov.org).

**March 24—27**: Indianapolis Civic Theatre presents "Damn Yankees" at the Marian Hall Auditorium; call 923-4597 for more information.

**March 27**: "Disney's On the Record" at Clowe's Memorial Hall; singers and dancers will perform 60 of the most beloved Disney songs from such as "Aladdin," "Snow White," and "Peter Pan" during this recording session; performances at 1:00pm and 6:30pm; for more information call 940-6444.

## Announcements and Reminders

**Summer job opportunity:** Bradford Woods is Indiana University's Outdoor Center and is supported by the Riley Children's Foundation and Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. They are currently hiring for their summer camp programs and are particularly interested in teacher education students. For more information, visit [www.bradwoods.org](http://www.bradwoods.org), or contact Jay G. Price at: 765-342-2915 ext.5213 (VOICE); 765-349-5117 (TTY), or [japrice@indiana.edu](mailto:japrice@indiana.edu).

**Cohort 4:** Applications are currently being considered for the fourth Project Bridge Cohort, to begin in summer 2005. Several invitations have been extended, and we are currently waiting for replies. We are very excited for Cohort 3 to complete their work and enjoy their graduation, and to begin working with a new cohort in the months ahead.

**Child Is a Gift<sup>®</sup>:** This year's K-12 ESL Conference will be held on Monday, March 14 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis. (Indianapolis, IN). Registration is required, and the cost is a non-refundable fee of \$75. For more information, and for a registration form, see the Indiana Department of Education web site at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/lmmp/conferences.html>.

**IN K-12 ESL Conference: "Every**

## Culture Corner: Ireland



The Irish are one of Indiana's largest ethnic groups.\* During the period 1832-1846, large numbers of Irish workers came to Indiana to help to build the Wabash and Erie Canal. Agents seeking canal laborers promised to "pay \$10 per month for sober and industrious men." Irishmen also participated in other large construction projects, and helped build the National Road (US 40). They often settled in towns along the canals and roads they had helped build.

During the years 1846-1860, Irish immigration increased as a result of the potato famine in Ireland, and Irish again supplied labor for large construction projects. After 1860, many Irish were employed in factory and construction work. Indianapolis had a large Irish neighborhood called "Irish Hill" that was located south of Washington Street and west of Shelby Street. According to the Federal Writer's Project, ninety percent of the Irish in Marion County lived in Irish Hill. In 1865 St. Patrick's Church (initially St. Peter's) of Indianapolis was built at the end of Virginia Avenue, near the eastern edge of the city's southside Irish community.

St. John's Church in Indianapolis was a center of Irish social life during 1870-1900, and sponsored lectures, cultural entertainment, festivals, card parties, and weekend retreats. Irish in Fort Wayne held regular Saturday and Sunday night dances, performing traditional Irish dances, including

fraternal and benevolent organizations in Indiana. They founded units of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1873. Indianapolis still has a unit of this fraternal organization: Ancient Order of Hibernians, Kevin Barry Division #3, which was organized in 1958. (See <http://www.aohindy.org/>.)

Hoosiers of all backgrounds may celebrate the state's Irish roots in March. The Indiana State Museum will kick-off its St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 6 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a concert by Wild Mercy, a Celtic and folk band. See [www.wildmercy.com](http://www.wildmercy.com) for information about these performers. The concert is free with museum admission.

March 12 will be "St. Patrick's Day at Garfield Park" from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is free, and will feature Irish music and folklore, and the opportunity for children ages 4 through 9 to make St. Patrick's Day decorations.

St. Patrick's Day on March 17 will start with the "greening of the downtown canal" at Ohio and West Streets east of Fire Station #13 at 6:50 a.m. For more information, call (317) 236-6515.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Shamrock Run & Walk will be held on this day. For information about this event, see <http://www.shamrockrun.com/>.

The St. Patrick's Day parade, sponsored by the Indianapolis Athletic Club Sports Foundation, will start at

north of Vermont Street. The parade has 100 units, including bands, clubs, professional sports teams, floats, and celebrities. Lunch will be served from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tyndall-Moorehead Armory at 711 North Pennsylvania Street at the start of the parade route, and will feature Irish food and beverages, and live music by Brigid's Cross.

The Indiana State Museum will present "Lathan and Lathan," a duo that performs traditional Irish songs and dance music, on March 17, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. These musicians play guitar, flute, pennywhistle, and bodhran. They will be joined by championship dancers Liz Donahue and Meghan Barman. Cost is \$3 per person.

The Indianapolis Downtown Irish Fest will feature live music and Irish food all day (11:00 a.m. until closing) at the Rathskeller at the Athenaeum. For information, see <http://www.rathskeller.com>.

For more information about Ireland, see <http://www.islandireland.com/>. This web site is an internet directory with links to Irish history, architecture, music, news, genealogy, travel, literature, and more. To learn about Irish culture and customs, see <http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/>.

\*Information on Irish in Indiana taken from *Peopling Indiana: The Ethnic Experience*. Ed. By Robert M. Taylor, Jr. and Connie A. McBirney. Indiana Historical Society: 1996.

Project Bridge to Achievement

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Readers, this is your newsletter. We welcome any contributions you wish to make. If you have a news item, a suggestion or a correction, please contact Jenny M. Witcher by phone or email. If you are a mentor or student and would like to volunteer to be profiled in subsequent issues, or if you would like to contribute a "Teacher Tip," please contact Jenny, Carmen Polk or Cheryl Hertzler. Thank you for your interest and participation!

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Congratulations!!

As mentioned in last month's issue, Colleen Squier was born late last year. We wanted to share her picture with you — what a cutie!!



Faculty Profile: Karen Bevis

Karen Bevis was introduced to our readers in the first issue of the newsletter. In addition to her tremendous professional background prior to her arrival at Marian College, she has accomplished a great deal and added even more to Project Bridge. As the college supervisor for the program, she observes and supervises MAT interns during their classroom teaching experience. She also works with them during their courses, introducing topics they need to know to help them become great teachers.

Karen has been an educator for 22 years. She has taught third and sixth grades, but finds that her teaching style works best in the middle school. She has been the principal of two schools — one inner city and one urban. She has taught in a higher education setting before, at Indiana State University. She has also coordinated a new

school from its inception and served as its director.

Karen's motivation for working in a higher education setting is her desire to share what she has learned with future teachers. She believes that, "Teaching is not about the teacher, it is about the students. Bringing this reality to Marian students gives me the assurance that our future teachers will put out their best efforts for the children in their own classrooms." She adds that working in higher education still allows her to work in schools and see the children from a different perspective. She was attracted to Marian by its roots in the Catholic tradition. Her classroom and principal work were in the Indianapolis Archdiocese. "I believe in the work of the Catholic Church and find a comfort which allows me to do my best work."

Karen's philosophy of teaching has undergone change throughout her career. But the cornerstone of her philosophy remains firm: that the needs of the student should dictate the educator's work. "Teaching is a profession that does not center on the person performing the task, but the recipients of the work." Karen admits that resources differ in every educational environment, but that that is not an excuse — it is an opportunity for teachers to use their enthusiasm and their own love of learning to put those resources to work in the best way.

Karen's advice to new teachers is to not "get caught up in everything and don't try and do it all your first year — one year at a time, one class at a time." Karen is improving education one intern at a time, and we are grateful to have her!