
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Bilingualism may delay Alzheimer's

Speaking two or more languages may help delay Alzheimer's disease symptoms by as much as five years, research has found. A new study examined medical records of 211 patients diagnosed with probable Alzheimer's, a devastating memory-erasing disorder estimated to affect one in eight people 65 years of age or older in the United States alone. The researchers found that symptoms started as much as five years later for people who had spoken two or more languages consistently over many years. The study led by scientists at Baycrest, an academic center affiliated with the University of Toronto, is published in the Nov. 9 issue of the journal *Neurology*.

Court: Defendants with limited English have right to interpreter

Defendants with limited English-language skills have a constitutional right to court interpreters in criminal trials, the Supreme Court of Georgia ruled Monday. The ruling came in a case involving a Mandarin Chinese speaker who was sentenced to 10 years in prison on two counts of cruelty to a child. Annie Ling, who had limited English language skills, did not understand that she had the option to plead guilty instead of going to trial and possibly facing a longer sentence, said the American Civil Liberties Union, one of two groups that filed a friend-of-the-court brief stating that denying a defendant an interpreter violates the U.S. Constitution and civil rights laws.

Kids get French revelation: Language taught at elementary level

A school in Nevada's Clark County has started to teach French to students in kindergarten through second grade, with the goal of eventually offering French instruction through 12th grade. Educators say teaching foreign languages at an early age will help students become fluent.

School system tweaking German language program

Until this point, German students in several public schools have been pulled out of class for at least an hour a day to be given German language instruction. The program, designed to keep students from being behind academically when they move back to Germany, was part of the deal negotiated by Volkswagen and city and county officials. But the state Department of Education has told Hamilton County school officials that they need to change the way the students are taught German. The department said it expects a new system to be implemented by January.

Funding for language programmes to be cut

Impending cuts likely to be made by the British Council have led to the Foreign language Assistanship Programme being suspended, affecting around 400 students at the University of York. Danielle Wray, a first year Language and Linguistics student at York University commented: "We are the next generation of employees and if these cuts are made permanent, language students will never be able to enrich their studies and knowledge of other cultures like previous students were able to. I think it's a huge shame."

From Finnish Lapland to Limassol, teenagers get set for EU translation contest

Up to 3 300 teenagers from all over Europe will test their language skills in the European Commission's fourth annual 'Juvenes Translatores' Young Translators' Contest for schools on 23 November. The contest will be held at the same time in all the schools, from Kittilä in Finnish Lapland to Limassol in Cyprus. The test runs for two hours, from 10 to 12 noon Brussels time, under the supervision of the schools.

Language Learning – Improve Your Foreign Language Skills

How do you keep up and continue to improve your foreign language skills? Fun language learning tips you can try at home. Language can be learned through music, magazines and books, internet, film, correspondence, and more.

10 Reasons to Learn a Foreign Language

If English is the only language you speak fluently, perhaps you should consider using the winter months to learn a second language? You might think there's no need if English is your home language since English is "universal", but the truth is, having a second or even third language under your belt can help you in more ways than you think!

PREVIOUS NEWS

Foreign Language for Foreign Policy?

Despite the chatter about globalization and multilateralism that has dominated public discourse in recent years, leaders in government and policy circles continue to live in a bubble of their own making, imagining that we can be global while refusing to learn the languages or learn about the cultures of the rest of the world. So it was surely encouraging that Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and a fixture of the foreign policy establishment, agreed to deliver the keynote address at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention in Boston on November 19. Haass is a distinguished author, Oberlin- and Oxford-educated, and an influential voice in American debates. The good news is that in his talk, "[Language as a Gateway to Global Communities](#)," Haass expressed strong support for increased foreign language learning opportunities. He recognized the important work that language instructors undertake as well as the crucial connection between language and culture: language learning is not just technical mastery of grammar but rather, in his words, a "gateway" to a thorough understanding of other societies.

How Long Will the Dominance of English Last?

Will English remain the lingua franca forever? Unlikely. But what will be next? Nicholas Ostler explores this question in his book *The Last Lingua Franca: English Until the Return of Babel*, which Laura Marsh [reviews](#) at The New Republic. Ostler thinks technologies like Google Translate and Babel Fish "will revolutionize global communications, and make foreign language learning a thing of the past." They're not perfect now, but they'll improve. If so, that's great for him, points out Marsh: Ostler "is chairman of the Foundation for Endangered Languages.

Bilingual programs fill language gap in Miami schools

"The goal of the bilingual program is to prepare the students for success by helping their transition," said Mary Avalos, an assistant research professor at the University of Miami with a doctorate in curriculum and teaching in TESOL and reading. "Some keep as a goal maintaining the natural language to create a truly bilingual student, or helping to teach a second language to English speakers." Under Florida law, all schools must provide ELL programs for students who do not speak English fluently. "All Florida students that are registered will be assessed," said Rosy Ugalde, executive director of bilingual education in Miami-Dade. "If they are found to be in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) category they will be registered in that instructional model unless the parents decide otherwise." Ugalde says that almost 99 percent of parents that have their children test within the ESOL category agree to have their children enrolled in the program.

Somerset's North Elementary School to offer foreign language program on trial basis

An after-school foreign language program will be offered on a trial basis at North Elementary School at the beginning of 2011. Currently, either Portuguese or Spanish is first taught in Somerset in sixth grade. School Committee member Elizabeth White pushed for implementation of the program at a meeting last week. As principal of the Elizabeth S. Brown Elementary School in Swansea, White said she had a good experience with the program.

Microsoft Word 2010 Language Tools

These advanced language tools are extremely useful, and with them you can extend the power of Word. If you have text that you want to change to a foreign language, this can be done in three ways using the Translate tool. Choose between Translate Document, Translate Selected Text (where you must first highlight some text to be translated) and Mini Translator. The translation occurs online, and languages can be set in **Translate > Choose Translation Language**. It doesn't take long for the translation to be returned, and this is a better option than going to the trouble of opening a browser, finding a translation service, pasting the text in and waiting for the results.

Teach Your Children...Better: Education Secretary Arne Duncan on how to fix a broken system

Education, just about everyone seems to agree, is broken in the U.S. The country has tumbled down the international rankings in several measures of educational excellence. Education Secretary Arne Duncan talked with The Wall Street Journal's Rebecca Blumenstein about what's being done to fix the system and what still needs to be done. We want to put \$1 billion behind what we're calling a well-rounded education. So yes, reading and math are fundamental; they're foundational. But we need science, we need social studies, we need foreign language, we need dance and drama and art and music and [physical education].

General: More troops need African language skills

The Pentagon needs more troops trained in the cultures and languages of Africa in order to better confront the increasing terror threat from the continent, a top general said Thursday. Army Gen. Carter Ham, who has been nominated to head U.S. Africa Command, told a Senate committee that the threat of terror from Somalia and other areas of East Africa is one of the command's greatest challenges.

Marine uses personal experiences to help Afghans

When Lucy Lopez sees Afghan children on patrols, she can't help remembering a time in her life when it seemed the poverty around her was boundless and receiving a good education was unattainable. Today, Lopez, 21, is a lance corporal and a female engagement team member for Regional Command Southwest. When patrolling through Helmand province, her main responsibilities are to assist the local women, or their children with any help they might need.

Chinese state councilor visits Russia's Chinese language school

Visiting Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong stopped by the St. Petersburg 652 primary and middle school on Sunday, speaking highly of the school's efforts to promote Sino-Russian cultural exchange. Liu appreciated the school's achievements in Chinese language teaching, as the school has been teaching Chinese as the first foreign language for 53 years.

Newly identified brain pathways vital to understanding language

The research was presented at Neuroscience 2010, the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, held in San Diego. "The question of how the brain understands language has puzzled scientists for generations," said senior author Nina Dronkers, PhD, of the Veterans Affairs Northern California Health Care System and the University of California, Davis. "We found rich connections throughout the brain that have not traditionally been associated with language, but are now found to tie together key areas important for understanding language." "The results revealed a far more extensive network for language functions than current models would predict," Dronkers said.

Just how important are Foreign Language classes?

Lucia thoroughly believes that her ability to speak foreign languages has opened up many opportunities for her. She feels that she now has a home in many different areas of the world due to the foreign languages she can speak. When she was thirteen, she was sent to Italy to learn the culture and language of the country. Now she is fluent in five languages and one dialect (English being her most recently learned language).

Australian translation software wins award

Australia's Cybre Software recently won the Leading Innovation Award at the 6th Taipei International Invention Show and Technomart. The award was conferred by the International Intellectual Property Network Forum and presented to Cybre's director Dr Richard Ski for his company's Cybre Reader Professional software. The browser based computer program allows translation of MS Word documents, PDF files, web pages, text and emails into a spoken voice in a range of languages.

AT&T Labs Shows Off Some of Its Speech Technology Research

"We are really on the cusp of a technology revolution in speech and language technology," said Mazin Gilbert, executive director of speech and language technology at AT&T Labs. "It's no longer about simply trying to get the words right. It's about adding intelligence to interpret what is being said and then using that to apply to other modes of communication, such as text or video."

Buenos noches

Garden City High School students are putting their foreign language skills to work helping youngsters at Douglas Elementary 3-4 campus learn Spanish. The students are working with student teacher Amanda Roman in launching the after-school Spanish Club for youngsters who studied the language before the reconfiguration of the district's elementary program. "The kids will run the program for the kids, the goal is for them to learn Spanish," said School Superintendent Michelle Cline, who greeted the close to 20 youngsters who stayed after school for the first meeting.

General Says More Troops Need African Language Skills

*(Fayetteville (NC) Observer)...*Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press

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SAIC Makes Investment in Language Technologies

SAIC (NYSE: SAI) has purchased technology, intellectual property and related assets from AppTek Partners, LLC; Applications Technology, Inc.; and MediaMind, LLC: all firms that focus on human language technologies. According to the firm, "SAIC will acquire a complete suite of products for text and speech (voice) processing, including machine translation, knowledge management and automated speech recognition tools for more than 30 languages. Federal government and commercial customers use these tools to automatically translate and transcribe large volumes of data and significantly reduce the amount of time needed to edit and finalize translated output."