
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 28 DECEMBER 2010

More Afghan Eagles depart Kabul for America

Two pilot candidates in the Afghan Air Force left Kabul International Airport, Dec. 27, to proceed to advanced training in the U.S. The two AAF officers, Lt. Jawid Karimi and Lt. Fazal Karim Faeer, are going directly to the U.S. for language training at Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas, and then to pilot training at either Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. for fixed wing aircraft or Fort Rucker, Ala., for helicopters.

English as she was spoke: The days of English as the world's second language may (slowly) be ending

ENGLISH is the most successful language in the history of the world. It is spoken on every continent, is learnt as a second language by schoolchildren and is the vehicle of science, global business and popular culture. Many think it will spread without end. But Nicholas Ostler, a scholar of the rise and fall of languages, makes a surprising prediction in his latest book: the days of English as the world's lingua-franca may be numbered.

Speech in the Home

A massive data-collection effort reveals patterns in the ways that children learn language. [This interactive visualization](#) provides a look into the most complete record of a single child's speech development ever created. The data has been organized to show the age of the child when he spoke each of his first 400 words. Speech of the child's primary caregivers is integrated into the visualization, showing how vocabulary growth may be influenced both by what caregivers say and how they say it.

Toddler Speech and Language Development

The first three years of life are the most intensive years for speech and language development. This is a time when the brain is still developing and maturing. Toddler speech and language development is critical, as it enables a child to communicate their inner thoughts, ideas and emotions. Language can be defined as a communication system comprised of sounds and letters (or gestures in the case of sign language). Speech is the ability to express language using sounds or gestures. Learning a language is one of the most intricate forms of knowledge ever acquired. Despite this, all normal children are able to master speech and language during the early childhood years.

Cherokees & Apple Bring Cherokee Language to iOS

The [Cherokee](#) nation went to Apple to ask the company to support the Cherokee language in iOS, according to a [report](#) from the Associated Press. In an effort to preserve the Cherokee language, the tribe recognized that the best way to get young people immersed in the language was to offer them tech tools that supported both a modern life and the language. "If you don't figure out a way to keep technology exciting and innovative for the language, kids have a choice when they get on a [cell phone](#)," Joseph Erb, a member of the tribe's tech division, told the AP. "If it doesn't have Cherokee on it, they all speak English. They'll just give up their Cherokee [...] because the cool technology is in English. So we had to figure out a way to make the cool technology in Cherokee."

Washington students use software to learn Spanish

District 51 School Board member Dr. Paul Kinsinger wanted foreign language instruction to be added to the curriculum in the district. So did Superintendent Chad Allaman. But like so many educational ideas nowadays, budget constraints caused a roadblock. "It wouldn't be cost efficient to hire a foreign language teacher in our district," Allaman said. "You're talking about spending \$40,000 a year for something that would benefit maybe 100 kids."

Windsor schools adopt bilingual path

Windsor Unified School District is the first on the North Coast to adopt a program that will honor graduating seniors for reaching benchmarks of literacy in at least two languages. Windsor is one of 33 school districts in the state recognized by the California Department of Education this month for adopting standards to recognize spoken, written and cultural expertise in two languages. "The message of 'English is enough' is not really accurate," said Shelly Spiegel-Coleman, executive director of Californians Together, an statewide advocacy group for English language learners. The group spearheaded the push for recognition of biliteracy — a term coined to acknowledge written, spoken and cultural expertise. "Really, what is marketable (are) students who have capabilities in multiple languages," she said.

Park City School District to expand dual-immersion program

Park City School District administrators and members of the board of education are looking to expand the dual-immersion language program currently available to elementary students. Parley's Park Elementary School is currently in the second year of a Spanish program, which started with first-graders during the 2009-10 school year. "We like the results that we are seeing," Superintendent Ray Timothy said. "Those young children who started with first grade are now in second grade and their fluency level is just incredible."

PREVIOUS NEWS

Signs of change: Legislator wants American Sign Language to count for college admissions

Delegate Dickie Bell has pre-filed a bill that would mandate that colleges and universities recognized ASL as fulfilling foreign language admissions criteria for incoming students within the state of Virginia.

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China's Publishing Body Bans Use of Foreign Words in Media

Following a ban on the use of foreign words in TV in May, the Chinese government's publishing authority announced last week that it has banned the use of foreign words in Chinese newspapers, books and websites.

High school students' language classes stretch to include Russian, Arabic, Chinese

Pennsylvania Schools are moving beyond the typical Spanish, French and German courses to include Chinese, Russian, Japanese and Arabic in school districts around the midstate.

Letter: The 'X' in Xmas is of Greek origin

The X in Xmas was the written symbol X of the Greek alphabet called Chi also the first letter in the Greek word Christos.

English's demise as the world's dominant language

British linguist Nicholas Ostler challenges the current popular view that English will remain the world's lingua franca forever.

World Language Report Raises Concerns for School Board

School Board members in West Hartford, CT say they want a continuing dialogue on the philosophy and mission of teaching foreign language in the elementary schools.

Linguistic Risk Taking vs. Academic Study

Being a linguistic risk taker can increase your functional fluency. These risk takers are out talking to people, making friends and living in the language but may continue to make many mistakes because they

did not have the academic training. Is it better to say little and be right, or say a lot, be understood but use the wrong words/grammar in the foreign language?

Better to Use a Translator for Calls and E-Mails

What's the best way to communicate with a new business associate in China? Experienced China hands agree that using a skilled interpreter to make a call or to translate the text of an e-mail message into Chinese is ideal.

Failure to Communicate – Could the U.S. mission in Afghanistan fall apart simply because of bad translation?

U.S. troops rely on translators. Imagine filtering your use of English through a translator who didn't attend college, was never your buddy and didn't grow up with your American slang that we take for granted. The chances for error or insult multiply rapidly. Can we fail because of the failure to communicate?

GAPP to Regulate Foreign Language Use in Publications

China's General Administration and of Press and Publication (GAPP) recently released a public notice concerning increased regulation of foreign language print materials.

Lawmakers Vote to Allow Foreign-Language Schools in Armenia

Armenian lawmakers on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly to adopt a controversial bill essentially allowing teaching at schools in a language other than Armenian.

Imitation Easiest Way to Grasp a Foreign Language

A Dutch study finds that people who copy speech of another foreign language speaker have a better comprehension in learning the new language.

Cambridge's MLK School to introduce Mandarin immersion program

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School in Cambridge, MA will become the first public school in New England to operate a Mandarin Chinese immersion program when the initiative is deployed in September 2011.

Switching Channels – India should think beyond familiar ways of dealing with China

It would be inconceivable for school students in Ukraine not to be able to choose Russian as a foreign language or for schools in Slovakia not to have German as a choice. Should not Indians have the same choice for Chinese?

IU establishes Swahili Flagship program for undergraduate education

The College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington today announced the establishment of an undergraduate Swahili Flagship program, to be led by Alwiya Omar, clinical associate professor in the Department of Linguistics. The Swahili Flagship, with a three-year grant of \$600,000, will be IU's second such advanced language program, joining the [Chinese Flagship](#) that was begun in 2008. It will be only the second African Languages Flagship in the nation.

Top Countries for Expat Families

According to a recent survey by **HSBC Bank International**, children living abroad [benefit from better education, higher safety levels and improved health and well-being](#). These little ones are also more likely to learn a foreign language (84%), play more sports (47%) and spend additional time with their families (53%). The downside for families is that the cost of childcare and expense of raising kids is likely to increase with a move to another country.

New Russian Flagship Center: University of Wisconsin-Madison

UW-Madison Russian Flagship Program is an innovative new undergraduate program that offers highly motivated students in any major the opportunity to reach a professional level of competence ([ACTFL Superior/ILR 3](#)) in Russian. The Russian Flagship Program increases students' opportunities to delve

into Russian language and culture through intensive courses, more advanced courses, and more individual time with instructors and native speakers.