
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 29 DECEMBER 2010

Provincial Reconstruction Team Kapisa: So you want to learn a language...

In the first two months of our deployment, many members of Provincial Reconstruction Team Kapisa have expressed an interest in learning a foreign language. In-deed, most of us will probably never have a better language learning environment. English is the minority language in each of our Forward Operating Bases and there are many opportunities for learning and practicing French, Dari, or Pashtu. Some people are naturally gifted linguists and some people have the discipline to study grammar books for long hours. However, for the other 99% of us, this article will discuss what goals are realistically achievable and some methods for achieving them without too much sweat.

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

Del. Dickie Bell has pre-filed a bill that would mandate that colleges and universities recognize American Sign Language (ASL) as fulfilling foreign language admissions criteria for incoming students. Under a 1998 provision from the Virginia Department of Education, high school students may use American Sign Language classes to satisfy foreign language requirements for graduation. But admissions departments at state universities and colleges do not have to accept sign language. VSDB Superintendent Nancy Armstrong said she hopes legislation will encourage more high school students to choose ASL as their foreign language.

Summit High system will offer Arabic courses

Beginning next fall, students in the Summit High School feeder system will have the opportunity to learn to speak Arabic, thanks to a five-year, \$1.3 million grant from the Education Department. Only about 400 students in the state are enrolled in Arabic-language programs, according to the Texas Education Agency. The language course will be offered as part of a comprehensive elementary and secondary Arabic studies program that also includes social-studies lessons. Mansfield school district officials said the new program will give students a competitive edge in the workplace.

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

Learning a foreign language in high school is moving beyond the typical Spanish, French and German courses to include Chinese, Russian, Japanese and Arabic in school districts around the midstate. Xuan Li, a visiting professor for the Confucius Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, is teaching Mandarin Chinese at Carlisle High School this year in a cooperative program through Dickinson College.

Language program may have kept Sacramento school open

[Valencia's](#) kindergarten class is one of three at [Edison Elementary](#) School in [Sacramento](#) that teaches students almost entirely in Spanish. The program – called dual immersion – teaches both native Spanish-speaking students and English-speaking students.

South Koreans turn to robot-teachers for English instruction

[South Korea's](#) obsession with teaching its children English in order to make them globally competitive is well known. Now, it has combined this with its high tech expertise to launch one of the most innovative experiments in education ever. As part of a government sponsored project, close to 30 robot teachers have started teaching youngsters English in 19 elementary schools in the city of Daegu.

2010 Best Apps to Learn a Language Intro/Intermediate

2010 was a groundbreaking year to learn languages with the help of the iPhone/iPad. Here are the best apps to learn a new language or to brush up rusty language skills. This list will be most helpful to you if you like the method of teaching the app uses.

[Dual Immersion helps students](#)

Keeping up with the world, I want to thank the school district and Lonnie Barber for making sure the Dual Immersion program is a complete K-12 program. Studies show that for true success in bilingualism, the students need to go through all grades. The only difference in our education compared to other countries is that they teach two or three languages. Students of other nations have proven the effectiveness of language learning, so it is so fantastic to have the same education here in Blaine County.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[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 Fageer, 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, and 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."

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.

Windsor schools adopt bilingual path

Windsor Unified School District (North Coast California) 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.

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?