
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 28 MARCH 2011

DLIFLC produces Japanese LSKs in record time

Just three days after the devastating March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) made available Japanese Language Survival Kits, small pocket sized guides with audio recordings (DLIFLC), covering three topics: Japanese Basic, Japanese Aircrew, and Japanese Medical.

CHINA: Overseas education - Changes and policies

Overseas education in China has also become more diversified. International students enrolled in non-formal programmes usually take Chinese-language training or short-term study, not for the purpose of earning a degree. The proportion of international students enrolled in formal programmes has increased yearly, while the proportion enrolled in non-formal programmes has declined.

Students seeking flexibility find it in cyber schools

Matt Arkin, head of school, said parents are attracted to GCA because their kids can work at their own pace. This fall, Advanced Placement courses and classes in foreign language, music and art will be added to the curriculum.

Chinese class producing trilingual students

Nà shì shénme?" means "what is that?" in Chinese. The students eagerly raise their hands to answer Childers' questions, and patiently wait to hear his or Abers' pronunciation and willingly give the difficult words a try. Childers said the students are like "sponges" and love learning. He learned Chinese when he was a Chinese linguist in the Air Force. He spent 57 weeks at the Defense Language Institute in California, learning the language. He said the young children pick up the language very fast. He and Abers have not found a suitable textbook, and are now considering developing one for future classes.

Senior finds love for Japanese culture after teaching herself the language

While most high school students are struggling to wake up, senior Nikki Prenevost sits in her living room before school catching up on her favorite Japanese drama, Itazura Na Kiss. Later that day, when most students use Facebook as a way to procrastinate, Nikki flips through a Seventeen magazine in Japanese as a break between her studies. While most students rush to finish their homework before their favorite college team plays on ESPN, Nikki rushes to Johnson County Community College to spend three hours learning the Japanese language. What might seem foreign to some students seems perfectly at home to Nikki.

Pilot program gives Spokane eight-graders a jump-start on learning a foreign language – and on high school credits

Bienvenidos, estudiantes. Esto es la clase de español para el grado ocho. Until this year, that phrase – "Welcome, students. This is eighth-grade Spanish" – was foreign to Spokane Public Schools' middle school students. But with the success of a pilot program at Sacajawea Middle School, it will likely become more commonplace. Spokane Public Schools plans to make Spanish available to the district's eighth-graders this fall, and those who successfully pass the yearlong course will receive high school credit.

Wallington schools may cut French

Students might have to say "au revoir" to French class if the school board goes ahead with a budget that would make Spanish the only foreign language offering, Superintendent Albert Pecora said. The

elimination of the high school French and elementary art programs is necessary to prevent spending for next school year from exceeding a state-imposed cap, he said.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Grant will enhance language offerings to the professions

Christopher Lupke, associate professor of Chinese, and W. Puck Brecher, assistant professor of Japanese, will use a two-year, \$200,000 grant to expand offerings in Chinese and Japanese at Washington State University. The grant is from the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (UISFLP). It will allow WSU's Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures to create Chinese and Japanese language courses for the professions.

Growing Diversity Fuels Chinese School

San Francisco's Chinese American International School has long had a reputation for strong academics, but it has grown more popular as a rising number of non-Chinese parents bank on Chinese-language skills for their children's future.

Turkey May Hire 40,000 Native English Speakers, Vatan Reports

Turkey's Education Minister may hire 40,000 native English-speakers over the next four years as part of a bid to improve language skills, Vatan newspaper reported. Prime Minister [Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#) has complained that English is poorly taught in many schools and ordered a review, the Istanbul-based newspaper said. The ministry is considering supplementing its 48,000 English teachers with 40,000 foreigners who'll teach and hold weekend and summer English courses, as well as run conversational "English Cafe" classes, the newspaper said.

Possible budget cuts opposed

At a public hearing on the 2011-12 school budget last week, parents, teachers and other community members asked the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education not to make proposed cuts to foreign language, media assistants and areas that would directly affect the classroom.

Four-month-olds can detect grammatical rules in new language

Infants are able to learn grammatical regularities in a novel language surprisingly early and at a remarkable speed. In a study at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, researchers working with Angela Friederici showed that the brains of babies were able to learn grammatical relationships between sentence elements in less than 15 minutes and reacted to errors that broke these rules. This was investigated by playing recordings of sentences in Italian to four month old German babies and taking EEG measurements.

Language immersion school aids earthquake victims in Japan

Fox Mill Elementary School in Herndon has a special connection to Japan. Students at the school, which is one of 12 language immersion schools in the county, receive half their instruction each day in Japanese. So when the Asian nation was hit with a tsunami and earthquakes on March 11, Fox Mill's community of students and parents mobilized to help.

Common Sense Advisory Predictions for 2010: How Did We Do?

Big buyers of language services will centralize their processes. We predict that large businesses would streamline operations and push for centralization of translation and localization in 2010. Machine translation and translation memory buyers will assess shared data. Language service providers specialize and fragment. The web becomes more worldwide with support for emerging languages. Demand for interpreting services in Europe will grow. The US government demand for linguists will continue to surge.

[Addressing Language Barriers Through New Media](#)

A [recent blog post](#) talked about [AIDSinfo](#), the National Library of Medicine's online resource recently released as a [mobile app](#). At the Department of Health and Human Services' [Office of Minority Health](#) (OMH) we have another useful new media tool—a [translation widget](#) (English-Spanish) of common HIV/AIDS-related terminology. Limited English language skills can hamper an individual's access to health information and services. But the language barrier can also be a burden for some English-speaking health professionals who provide care and resources to speakers of other languages. The [HIV/AIDS Prevention Bilingual Glossary \(HPBG\)](#) was designed with this idea in mind—to provide linguistic support to people and organizations working with the [Latino/Hispanic](#) community in the US, a [group that experiences higher rates of HIV/AIDS](#) compared to the general population.

[EDUCATION: Chinese Rising in Language Popularity](#)

In this melting pot of a city, different dialects are thrown left and right, and as politics and business get concentrated overseas, Americans are picking up these languages. One way they learn to do it is at one of the dozens of schools specializing in foreign language studies, from the ever-popular Spanish to French to Japanese. Though Arabic too has recently come on strong, nothing appears to trump the latest language craze: Chinese. "It's become a buzz word, kind of like Japan was in the '80s when America concentrated on it and its growth," said Jon Hills, director of Hills Learning, a language school in Manhattan. "Then, we thought we would be speaking Japanese soon, but now, Chinese has taken its place."

[Meet Maria Jose Aveiga, Scholarship Winner](#)

After applying for the Modern Foreign Language Scholarship offered by Manhattan College, Maria Aveiga was one of fifteen winners chosen from a pool of 90 applicants. She was awarded a four-year scholarship that includes tuition, room and board, to attend the Roman Catholic, liberal arts college located in Riverdale, NY. The criteria for the scholarship, according to Marlene Gottlieb, chairperson of the department, is that the applicant be a high school senior with a solid GPA, who has plans to major or minor in language and who excels on an essay exam that is administered by the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures.

[Foreign Language, Other Areas Still Up for Cuts in Williamsville](#)

Tuesday night, parents and teachers had a chance to weigh in on the proposed budget cuts at a public work session, but school board members decided to move forward with Superintendent Howard Smith's proposed cuts. They include cutting fifth grade foreign language from the middle school program, as well as reducing art classes and cutting back on home and career education classes. However, fifteen minutes of instruction time will be added to foreign language classes at the sixth grade level.

[Language Day fest celebrates cultures](#)

Students filled Gorton Quad on March 9 for the 17th annual Language Day Festival to celebrate and promote linguistic and cultural diversity. "A phenomenal amount of people have been participating all day," Associated Students President Beto Vasquez said. The entertainment was a non-stop whirlwind of dancing, singing and fashion shows displaying the dress of many different cultures.

[Stanford, Middlebury Strain to Shield Their Study-Abroad Students in Japan](#)

U.S. colleges are scrambling to assure the safety of their students on study-abroad programs in the wake of the Japanese earthquake and revolutions and violence in the Middle East. While [Europe](#) remains the most common study-abroad destination, accounting for 55 percent of students in the 2008- 09 school year, the share going to [Asia](#) has almost doubled to 11 percent from nine years earlier, according to the institute. About 5,800 American students took courses in Japan, and 1,780 in [Egypt](#).