

Spanish Update

Seven Hills Classical Academy February, 2010

Kindergarten:

Since our last newsletter update the kindergarten students have been spending a lot of time learning about animals in Spanish. We learned a farm song called “La Granja de Miguel” which is similar to *Old MacDonald*. This song focuses on the dog (el perro), the pig (el chanco), the rooster (la gallina), the duck (el pato) and the cow (la vaca). The children know these names very well and should be able to identify all of them! We practiced the names, colors and sounds (in Spanish) of these animals through charades, Pictionary, stories and songs. We had beanie babies of each animal which we used to play our ‘grab bag’ game with! Your child should have brought home a drawing of their favorite animal(s) with the name(s) written in Spanish.

Besides farm animals I recently introduced fruit names (las frutas). We learned apple (manzana), banana (banana), orange (naranja), and watermelon (sandía). We soon will be learning grapes (uvas) and cantelope (melon). We learned a new song entitled “Las Frutas.” The song goes through each fruit in English and Spanish with the verses saying “I like watermelon” and then we respond with “Me gusta sandía”. It has a catchy, repetitive tune and is easy to pick-up, so before you know it your child might be singing it at home!

Lastly, we have been working on our numbers. Counting to 5 or 10 in Spanish came easy for most of the students, so they have been challenged to say the numbers out of order, as well as continue on to 15 or 20. Our goal is to be up to 20 within the next couple weeks! The numbers are listed below:

1- uno	6- seis	11- once	16- dieciséis
2- dos	7- siete	12- doce	17- diecisiete
3- tres	8- ocho	13- trece	18- dieciocho
4- cuatro	9- nueve	14- catorce	19- diecinueve
5- cinco	10- diez	15- quince	20- veinte

Have your child practice these numbers with blocks or their favorite toys at home! We will be playing new activities starting next week to really practice and master them, both in order and out of order. Spanish has been going well in the Kindergarten classroom and I encourage you to ‘quiz’ your child on a new Spanish word each day!

First and Second Graders:

The first and second graders at Seven Hills have been very busy since the last newsletter! First, we did a review of the geography in South America (América del Sur) to refresh the kids on which countries are Spanish-speaking. After that we began learning the months (los meses) of the year in Spanish. To help them remember the months they learned the song: “Meses Macarena”.

January-enero	February-febrero	March-marzo	April-abril	May-mayo
June-junio	July-julio	August-agosto	September-septiembre	
October-octubre	November-noviembre		December-diciembre	

They have also spent time putting those months into the correct seasons in Spanish and acting out the weather in those different seasons.

Fall-el otoño	Winter-el invierno	Spring-la primavera	Summer-el verano
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Along with months of the year the first and second graders learned how to say dates in Spanish, and to answer the questions ¿Cuál es la fecha? (What is the date?) and ¿Qué día es hoy? (What day is it?). For example, February 14 would become *el 14 de febrero*. In doing that we have also reviewed the days of the week and the numbers up to 31

As a special Valentine's Day class the first and second graders made valentines in Spanish for someone they care about. They learned phrases such as *Feliz Día de San Valentín* (Happy Valentine's Day) and *Eres mi mejor amigo/amiga* (You are my best friend.) They had fun decorating their valentine's cards! We are just beginning a unit on the weather words in Spanish, so they will soon be able to talk about the weather in their second language!

Third and Fourth Graders:

The third and fourth graders have had a busy and exciting return to school! They started the New Year by filling in their pasaportes (passports) with information from the group geography projects. They have learned fun facts about Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, Chile, Argentina and Bolivia.

They have enjoyed learning the days of the week, months of the year and the seasons!

Monday <i>lunes</i> Tuesday <i>martes</i> Wednesday <i>miércoles</i> Thursday <i>jueves</i> Friday <i>viernes</i> Saturday <i>sábado</i> Sunday <i>domingo</i>	January <i>enero</i> February <i>febrero</i> March <i>marzo</i> April <i>abril</i> May <i>mayo</i> June <i>junio</i>	July <i>julio</i> August <i>agosto</i> September <i>septiembre</i> October <i>octubre</i> November <i>noviembre</i> December <i>diciembre</i>	Winter <i>el invierno</i> Spring <i>la primavera</i> Summer <i>el verano</i> Fall <i>el otoño</i>
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The third and fourth graders have also been learning how to say the different parts of the body:

head-la cabeza	face-la cara	hands-las manos
waist-la cintura	eyes-los ojos	fingers-los dedos
knees-rodillas	nose-la nariz	arms-los brazos
feet-pies	mouth-la boca	legs-las piernas

Lastly, los números (numbers) have been reviewed. They have done math problems in Spanish. Some examples are:
 $5+8=13$ (Cinco más ocho son trece.)
 $30-10=20$. (Treinta menos diez son veinte.)

It has been a great month for Spanish class. We look forward to continuing the students on to new vocabulary units.

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