

# Bilingual / ESL & World Language News



## Congratulations, Mrs. Gonzalez...you will be missed!

Join me in congratulating Evelyn Gonzalez who will be retiring from teaching after 31 years in Lakewood!!! During that time, she has held many roles including bilingual teacher, ESL teacher, mentor, cooperating teacher, and instructional coach. She has played a prominent role on numerous teams and committees, including professional development. Her immeasurable dedication to the students, teachers, and parents of our district will definitely be missed. We wish her nothing but health and happiness as she begins her retirement in January 2021.



**Check it out!**

<https://learn.teachingchannel.com/video/vocabulary-for-ells>

November  
2020

Upcoming dates

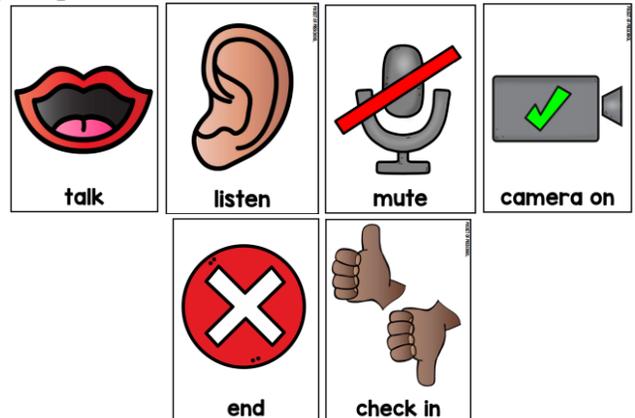
November

Oct 31- Nov 2 Dia de los muertos  
3,4,5,6 Schools closed  
23,24,25 K-8 conferences  
26,27 Schools closed (Thanksgiving)

## Tips for Teaching ELLs....Remotely



Since students and teachers will be required to work remotely throughout the year as needed, this section of the newsletter will be dedicated to monthly tips for working with ELL students remotely. Please send me your great ideas!



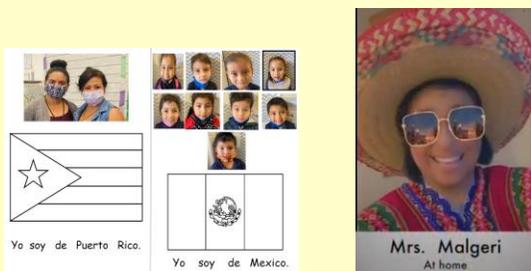
In any learning environment, clear and consistent expectations are important—remote learning is no exception! To provide ELL students with the additional support of visuals, consider using signs, such as the ones above, to prompt students with instructions and transitions while teaching synchronously.

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/FreeDownload/Distance-Learning-Visuals-Rules-and-Reminders-5370998>

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

### Who are our ELLs?

- 36% of the district's K-12 students are ELLs (English Language Learners)
- We have 1,836 ELL students in grades K-12
- 1,794 (98%!) of our ELLs are Spanish-speakers



## Do Hispanic Families Celebrate Thanksgiving?

Although Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Latin American countries, Hispanic immigrants have embraced celebrating Thanksgiving in the United States. Called “El día de acción de gracias” in Spanish, Thanksgiving has resonated with Hispanics in the United States because of two vital components in Latino culture: family and food.

When talking about Thanksgiving in class with your students, be mindful that “traditional” Thanksgiving foods are not going to be the only items on their dinner table!

See below for some great articles on how Latino families in the U.S. typically celebrate the holiday!

*“Turkey and tamales: How Latino immigrants have adopted Thanksgiving celebration”*

<https://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/turkey-and-tamales-how-latino-immigrants-have-adopted-thanksgiving-celebration/>

*“10 Ways You Know You’re at a Latino Thanksgiving”*

<http://www.latina.com/lifestyle/latino-thanksgiving-traditions>

*“Turkey and mole sauce? Across U.S., Latino families blend food traditions on Thanksgiving”*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/turkey-mole-sauce-across-u-s-latino-families-blend-food-n938556>



\*Thank you to the teachers who shared their ideas and activities!!



## Día de los muertos



“Día de Muertos, or Day of Dead, is a Mexican Holiday that celebrates the life of ancestors who have passed. It is celebrated across Latin America and is most recognizable as the holiday with the colorful calaveras (skulls) and calacas (skeletons) costumes. Day of the Dead is not “Mexican Halloween” and it is not the same as Cinco de Mayo.

Day of the Dead may sound like a sad celebration, but it is actually a joyous occasion of remembering and celebrating loved ones who have died. For the people who celebrate the Day of the Dead festival (Día de Muertos), it is viewed as just part of the cycle of life and children are taught not to fear death. It is meant to be a happy time to share memories of loved ones who have passed.

When we think of Day of the Dead, we probably think Day of the Dead activities in Mexico. While that country has large Día de los Muertos celebrations, the traditions are also honored in Guatemala, Brazil, Spain, and also in the United States, especially in the areas where there are large Hispanic populations.

Families who celebrate often set up a Día de los Muertos altar, or *ofrendas de día de muertos* (*ofrenda de muertos*), in their homes to honor the deceased. They then place some of the deceased family member’s favorite things on the altar — food, drinks, and any other items that the family member enjoyed while they were alive.”

<https://homeschoolsuperfreak.com/dia-de-los-muertos-activities-day-of-the-dead-for-homeschool/> (source)

### Resources for Teachers

<https://www.teachervision.com/holidays/day-dead-videos-activities>

<https://worldlanguagecafe.com/day-of-the-dead-in-the-spanish-classroom/>

<https://spanishmama.com/day-of-the-dead-activities/>

