

# FLAGS POLE

SPRING 2020

FLAGS is a membership organization whose purpose is to provide networking, resources and professional development to world language teachers in the greater Sacramento area. We are an affiliate of the California Language Teachers' Association.

**PUBLISHED BY FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION  
OF GREATER SACRAMENTO**



## **Member SPOTLIGHT and BEST practices**

Tovah Skiles, a Spanish teacher in Davis, presented at our Spring PD on how she assesses presentational communication in her classroom. She started by defining presentational communication as rehearsed writing and speaking, which receives no immediate feedback. She talked about 8 different activities that she uses in her classroom. One activity, Tovah explained, is a project called "My tee-shirt". Students create a paper t-shirt which they would wear as if they were a camp counselor. Their tee-shirt has images that represent themselves. It is their visual tool as they verbally present themselves to others.

Tovah also introduced the group to the R.A.F.T technique for presentational writing. R.A.F.T. stands for Role, Audience, Format and Topic. Students can choose who they would like to be as a summative writing assignment. For example, in a climate crises assignment, they could choose to be a child, a polar bear, a glacier or a single use plastic product. Then they choose (from a list of possibilities) their audience, the format and the topic. She had so many great ideas. Reach out to her for her presentation if you did not catch it. [tovahskiles@gmail.com](mailto:tovahskiles@gmail.com)



# || PAUSE...

**AND MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS! :)**

**Student Awards  
Breakfast: Sat.,  
May 9th, 2020,  
9:00 - 11:00  
a.m., @ Mimi's  
Café, See page 4  
of this issue.  
Scan this code  
to access the  
google form to  
register!**



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# The President's Perch

Hello FLAGS members!

I hope this newsletter finds you well despite all the challenges you might now be facing with school closures and other cancellations. May it be a time of finding new resources for your classroom and a renewal of your spirit with a little extra time on your hands.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, CLTA has regretfully had to cancel their upcoming conference. It is for the safety of all participants. Normally we include information about upcoming professional development in each issue. That is why we wanted to announce this cancellation.

Speaking of what is happening lately, how did you spend Leap Day? About 20 of our awesome FLAGS members spent it with FLAGS at our Winter Workshop, "Leaping into the Modes." Find out more about this outstanding program presented by three local teacher leaders (and FLAGS members) in this issue of the FLAGS Pole.

Also not to be missed in this issue: learn how you can honor a colleague and a deserving student through our two awards programs, and find out about your last opportunity to provide feedback on the final draft of the *California World Languages Framework*.

So read on, because we have a lot of important information for you!

All the best,  
Nicole Naditz

President, Foreign Language Association of Greater Sacramento

We want and need to hear your voice!

**Provide feedback on the *California World Languages Framework***

An instructional framework is designed to accompany content standards and provide critical support to the subject area of the standards in the areas of equitable, high quality instruction; assessment; professional learning; and instructional materials. When our California World Languages Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education in January of 2019, that started the timeline for the development of our *California World Languages Framework*.

The Framework had an initial public review period at the end of 2019 and is now in its second and final public review period. The input of world languages educators like yourselves is critical to ensure that the final product represents the best thinking in the field and will be useful to teachers, administrators and publishers.

Please go to <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/fl/cf/> to view the draft chapters and then send your feedback to <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/fl/cf/> by 2 p.m. on March 30 so that your feedback can be considered by the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) during their next meeting. Remember that the most useful feedback is precise and specific, including providing the exact page and line numbers about which you are writing and exactly what you want the IQC to consider or do.



**FLAGS teachers at our Spring PD,  
February 29th, Sac State**



## **The FLAGS Board**

### **President, CLTA Rep, Advocacy Chair & Webmaster**

**Nicole Naditz**

Program Specialist for Education  
Technology, San Juan Unified  
School District.

### **Vice President / Conference Chair / Awards Chair**

**Inga Templeton**

German Teacher  
C. K. McClatchy HS

### **Treasurer**

**Christine Lanphere**

French Teacher  
Natomas HS

### **Membership**

**Evelyn Bejarano**

Spanish & French Teacher, Retired

### **Historian / Secretary**

**Marie Robb**

French Teacher, Retired

### **At-Large Member**

**Tanya Zaccone**

Executive Director, CLTA  
Spanish Teacher, Retired

### **Newsletter Editor**

**Deanna Duffy Rojas**

French Teacher, Bella Vista HS

**Board Members can all be reached  
by email on the FLAGS website:**

**[www.flagsteacher.com/about](http://www.flagsteacher.com/about)**

# Honoring Excellence

## **Teacher Awards!!!**

FLAGS wants to recognize your amazing fellow language teachers for the work that they do inside and outside the classroom. Through us, your colleagues could win a monetary award and a certificate of recognition. As a bonus, the World Language Department will also receive some funds! FLAGS makes it really easy to nominate a teacher; we only need the name of the teacher and three letters recommendation. The letters must be from an administrator, a colleague (you) and a parent/student and they should explain why the teacher should receive the FLAGS Teacher Award. Only teachers who are current FLAGS members can be nominated for this award. Once you have collected all the letters you can email them to the awards chair, Inga Templeton, at [ingatempleton@hotmail.com](mailto:ingatempleton@hotmail.com).

## **Honor a Student @ the Student Awards**

### **Breakfast!!!**

Every Spring, the FLAGS Board hosts the Student Awards Breakfast to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in World Language instruction.

FLAGS treats the student, two guests and the teacher to breakfast. In addition, students receive a certificate and a small award. Teachers should be present to speak about the student. This event is limited to 12 FLAGS members (and their guests), so be sure to get your nominations in early!

This year's Student Awards Breakfast will be held at Mimis in Alta Arden, on Saturday, May 9th, 2020, from 9:00-11:00AM. To participate in this awards breakfast, please complete this form

<https://forms.gle/ZRiJnVDQA4n5hiLfA>

Best to you, ~ Inga Templeton

# FLAGS Spring PD

## Leap Into the Modes

By Deanna Duffy, Newsletter Editor

What did you do to commemorate Leap Day this year? For this special day that only comes once every four years, local World Language teachers gathered in a classroom at Sacramento State. Those 25 FLAGS members had valuable training on the 3 modes of communication in languages.

Kristina Argueta, who teaches at Oak Ridge High School presented on how to assess interpretive communication with the new World Language Standards. She emphasized using authentic materials because they provide real-life examples of the language in every day use. The internet provides us with a huge amount of resources of authentic sources. She argues that you can find them on Twitter, Youtube, Facebook, and even train schedules. You can adjust the task to what your learners should be able to do. Kristina spoke about how to design a thematic IPA and reminded us about the differences between performance tasks and proficiency assessments. Performance tasks are ones that assess what learners can do on one day versus proficiency tasks which will demonstrate what a student can do at any time, inside or outside of class. One non-assessment activity she shared was the **"Tossed Salad Reading activity"**. During this activity, students are grouped to read a document. They have slips of paper of different colors - green, red, yellow, and orange. As students read, they interrupt each other with questions (green slips of paper), opinions (red slips of paper), connections (yellow slips of paper). When they interrupt the reader, they then take the responsibility to read. They have to make a salad during reading with all of the colors from the slips of paper.

Meadow Pritchett, a Bella Vista High School teacher, followed Kristina to share strategies for using interpersonal communication in the classroom. With interpersonal communication, meaning is actively negotiated between two speakers. With a document, you can make misinterpretations, but no one will tell you that you are wrong. But in interpersonal communication, you have conversation (in person, on the phone, or text messaging without the chance to perfect your language. Interpersonal communication is messy or awkward. "Students often dislike it because they are put on the spot and do not have moments to reflect", says Meadow. However, this is the heart of what we want them to be able to do. One novel idea that we loved was her activity for **"Silent texting"**. Students are given white boards and must write messages back and forth to each other in the target language in silence. It can be any topic, such as "what are you going to do this weekend?" The activities practiced during the day were interactive and applicable to any classroom. If you were not able to attend, please join us at the next PD!

# Membership matters

FLAGS has a Special Packaged Deal for this 2019-20 membership year. Normally, FLAGS dues are \$20, but for this packaged deal, \$30 will get you CLTA Standard membership at \$25 and FLAGS membership at \$5. This \$5 price is good only if you sign-up for CLTA membership at the same time.

As a **member** you can attend all FLAGS Workshops for free. You can **nominate a colleague** for **FLAGS Outstanding Teacher Award**. You can **honor a student** at the annual **Student Award Breakfast**. You can apply for small grants to fund special advocacy/outreach event you are planning with your students.

Not a member, but you want to recognize a colleague for their outstanding teaching? For \$20 (*\$30 if you include CLTA membership*) each, you & your colleague can become members and you can nominate each other for the FLAGS Outstanding Teacher Award. **It's not too late!**

Not a member, but you want to honor a particular student at the annual Student Awards Breakfast? For \$20 (*\$30 if you include CLTA membership*) each, you can become a member and honor that special student. **It's not too late!**

Not a member, but you want to apply for small grants to fund special Advocacy/ outreach event you are planning with your students? For \$20 (*\$30 if you include CLTA membership*) each, you can become a member and apply for that funding. **It's not too late!**

**It's never too late** to renew or join FLAGS for the current academic year (2019-20), print and send in the membership form on the last page of this newsletter or visit [www.flagsteacher.com/membership](http://www.flagsteacher.com/membership) to download the form. Want to use a credit card? Visit [clta.net/membership/](http://clta.net/membership/) (must sign-up for both CLTA & FLAGS at the special packaged deal of \$30). Sorry, credit cards are not accepted for FLAGS only memberships.

Sincerely,

Evelyn

Evelyn

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO**  
 (A regional affiliate of the **California Language Teachers Association**)  
**Membership Application or Renewal**

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

Circle One

Name (please print)..... **New** **Renewal**

Title (circle one) Miss Ms. Mrs. Sister Dr. Mr. Rev. Brother

Home Address ..... **CA** .....

number street city zip

Home Phone (.....)..... E-mail (personal) .....

School ..... Language(s).....

(New members) I was encouraged to join by .....

**Special Package Deal for CLTA & FLAGS Membership**  
 (\$30 for both)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Separately:**

**FLAGS dues** (\$20 Regular; \$10 Student; \$5 Retiree)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CLTA dues** (\$25 Regular; \$10 Student; \$20 Retiree & Part-time)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

If paying **Package Deal** or **FLAGS dues only**, please make check payable to **FLAGS** and send it with this form to:

**FLAGS Membership**  
 9400 Trenholm Dr.  
 Elk Grove, CA 95758

If paying for **CLTA dues only**, please make check payable to **CLTA** and send it with this form to:

**CLTA Membership**  
 1614 27th St.  
 Sacramento, CA 95816

(or go to [clta.net/membership](http://clta.net/membership) to pay w/a credit card and/or join other affiliates)

