

# FLAGS POLE

WINTER 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.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SACRAMENTO



Dear FLAGS Family and Friends,

Even though we feel like we are sitting still, time sure is flying! November always reminds us to be grateful for the big and little joys and comforts in our lives, and that was even more true this past November. On a professional level, I am thankful for each and every one of you and the incredible work you are doing (or have done) to foster students' proficiency and interculturality. I appreciate that you are opening their eyes, hearts and minds to a world beyond their own. This December, all of us on the FLAGS board hope that you will find yourself surrounded with daily gifts of wonder and small surprises that bring you joy.

In this issue, look for information about our upcoming Winter Workshop, the remaining two days of the Capital World Language Project 2020-2021 program, a reminder about our FLAGS awards programs, and more.

Take care!

Nicole Naditz

President, FLAGS



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**PAUSE...**

**AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS! :)**

**FLAGS  
WINTER PD :  
JANUARY 30TH  
8:30 -12 pm  
Via Zoom**

**CAPWLP à la  
carte sessions  
Feb 6th and  
March 6th  
2021**

**Student Awards  
Breakfast: Sat.,  
May 22nd,  
2021 9:00 -  
11:00 a.m., @  
Mimi's Café.**

**Find more info  
in this issue!**

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# FLAGS Fall PD

On September 26th, FLAGS met for a Fall workshop via Zoom to learn about how to address the modes of communication during distance learning. Tovah Skiles taught us her **best tricks to use Pear Deck for Interpretive communication**. She demonstrated how the features of Pear Deck allow students to interact with text by drawing on slides, typing their answers to questions and dragging answers into different areas on the slides. These tools allow teachers to create engagement with text and to get accurate data of how students are interacting with the text. During the FLAGS PD, Tovah used an infographic that talked about the effects of climate change. Participants were asked to respond to that infographic. It was a poignant demonstration of how teachers can use Pear Deck as students interpret text and images.



**You might want to check these sites out!**  
**Both have useful applications to get kids engaged and interacting.**

[wordwall.net](http://wordwall.net)

<https://wheeldecide.com/>

Kristina Argueta presented a **fabulous activity for Interpersonal communication**. After practicing the past tense (and in French, the imperfect), students are asked to exchange information about a past event. "I tell them there was a burglary at school Saturday evening between 5-10 and the suspects are in our class." With a partner, students must create an alibi. They should say that they were with their partner the whole time and that they need lots of details to support an alibi. For example, they need to say not just where they went but also how much they spent, etc. "I don't give too many examples of details because I want there to be holes." Students have about 20 minutes in their groups to prepare. Then, one partner steps outside (or in this case into the waiting room) and the other partner tells us their alibi and the class asks questions for more details. When they get really into it, they ask everything--what color was the car, etc. The partners then switch places and the class looks for holes. The activity would continue until every pair is done and then the class could vote on who had the weakest alibi.



Did you know you can make a virtual bingo game to play with your students? You put in the words and it will make 30 cards for free. You just give students the link and they get a unique card.

<https://myfreebingocards.com/bingo-card-generator/preview/s3drgs>

# Capital World Language Project

## 2020-2021 Program Update

Days 1 and 2 of the CapWLP 2020-21 program have come and gone, but it's not too late to sign up for some timely professional development in 2021! This year's program is "[Teaching and Learning World Languages in Blended and Distance Learning](#)", and for the first time, you have the opportunity to either attend all 5 days of professional learning (and purchase CE units if you complete all required assignments), OR you can choose to attend individual days as you wish.

Days 3 and 4 are the stand-alone presentations which are available for individual sign up and attendance. Day 3 (February 6, 2021) will focus on maximizing synchronous learning time and summative assessment in all of the Modes of Communication. Day 4 (March 6, 2021) will deal with student engagement and differentiation. Both days will be facilitated by experienced CapWLP Team members. Each day is available at a daily registration fee of \$30.00. CapWLP can accept check or credit card payments.

To register for Days 3 and 4, you can go to the FLAGS website ([flagsteacher.com](http://flagsteacher.com)) or [click here](#) and complete the Google Form. If you have any questions, please email Christine Lanphere at [clanphere@comcast.net](mailto:clanphere@comcast.net).



Throwback picture: 2015  
CLTA Conference in  
Sacramento, hosted by  
FLAGS

# Distance Learning Ideas and Tips



I reached out to Karina Fielden, a Spanish teacher in the San Juan Unified School District, and asked her to share some of her best Distance Learning tips. Here's what she has to share with us. I hope, like me, you can get some good ideas from her. If you would like to follow up with Karina, you can email her at [karina.fielden@sanjuan.edu](mailto:karina.fielden@sanjuan.edu).

Deanna Duffy, Pole Editor

## Time-Saving Tips

It feels like during DL, time is more valuable than it has ever been! So, I have been working on trying tools and ideas that will allow me to save time whenever possible. One of my favorite tools is the Chrome extension Mote. This is an audio recording extension that works easily with Google Chrome. Instead of typing my feedback for each student, I provide oral feedback. Depending on the level, this feedback is either in English or our Target Language. The students actually love this! I feel it has allowed me to bring a bit of human touch into this environment and it allows me to connect with each kid.

## Breakout Rooms

Regarding breakout rooms, I use them with my higher levels on Fridays and Mondays. On Fridays, students go into breakout rooms to talk about their plans for the weekend, on Mondays, they talk about what they did over the weekend. At the end of the breakout rooms, we all meet and I randomly choose students to tell me about what one person in their group shared. This practice allows them to interact, speak, and listen. They not only practice speaking about themselves but also about someone else.

## Picture Tuesday

I show a picture (people at the park, kids playing, a couple arguing) at the beginning of class. Students describe what they think is happening in the picture. While everyone does this activity, I ask for volunteers to share their descriptions. Sometimes I use the chat to encourage them to volunteer so there's no dead time. This activity can be done in writing or verbally (recording). Sometimes the descriptions are so funny, we choose the best one as "La Mejor" (The best) and the kids love participating.



Happy Holidays from  
your FLAGS team!



# Upcoming FLAGS events and offerings

## **FLAGS WINTER WORKSHOP**

**Topic: Walking through the Framework**

**Date: January 30th, 2021**

**Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**If you have enjoyed reading about best practices in this newsletter, then please consider joining us live for our Winter PD. Experienced teachers and presenters will be training participants on how to apply the new California Framework. It is exciting to have a framework that structures how WL teach the standards. The interactive presentation will give help give you a competency with the framework. We hope to see you there!**

**Cost: FREE registration for FLAGS members.**

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

### **Teacher Awards!!!**

FLAGS wants to recognize your amazing fellow language teachers - especially ones that you think are doing a great job in 2020. With your nomination, current FLAGS members could win a monetary award and the recognition that they so deserve. Please send us the name of your colleague and three letters of recommendation: one from an administrator, one from a colleague (you) and one from a parent/student. The letters should explain why the teacher should receive a FLAGS Award. We will sweeten the pot by giving additional funds to the WL department of their home school! Can you imagine how happy you could make a colleague this holiday season by getting them some extra money and a certificate of excellence? 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). We can't wait to give these out.

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

In the Spring, the FLAGS Board hopes to host 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 TENTATIVELY be held at Mimi's in Alta Arden on May 22nd from 9-11 am. For more information, contact any FLAGS board member. A link to a Google form for nominations will be sent in the Spring.

Best to you, ~ Inga Templeton. FLAGS Vice President

### **The FLAGS Board**

**Published by the Foreign  
Language Association of  
Greater Sacramento**

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

**Nicole Naditz**

Program Specialist for Education  
Technology, and World  
Languages 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)**

# Membership Matters!

Have you RENEWED your professional memberships? The Winter Holidays are just around the corner. Before you get caught up in all the family stuff, take a few minutes to RELAX and renew your FLAGS and CLTA memberships.

Last year we ran a Special Packaged Deal for Membership in honor of CLTA's 50th Anniversary. Since COVID-19 so rudely interfered with the celebration at Disneyland, we are continuing the special deal for another year; for only \$30 you get membership for the 2020-21 year in FLAGS and CLTA. Normally, FLAGS dues are \$20 for regular membership, but when you include CLTA at \$25, FLAGS is only \$5. What a DEAL!!

FYI: Student membership in FLAGS is still only \$10 (CLTA is also \$10) and \$5 for retirees (\$20 for CLTA).

As you renew, think about inviting that new teacher at your school/district to become a member or give them a gift of membership. They will thank you later.

There are lots of benefits to being a member of FLAGS. You get reduced rates for FLAGS workshops. You can nominate colleagues for awards recognizing them for their outstanding teaching. You can honor a student at the annual Student Awards Breakfast for FREE. You can apply for small grants to fund special Advocacy/outreach events with your students. You can join us at the FREE fall member reception (this event has moved to the Spring hoping for an in-person reception). And you get instant updates on matters of importance to the profession. CLTA Member Benefits can be found at [clta.net/membership](http://clta.net/membership) . To take advantage of the Special Package Deal, go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4816174> . If you want to never have to worry about renewing your membership, you can opt-in to Automatic Membership Renewal (only available for credit card payments through the CLTA portal).

To join or renew FLAGS Membership ONLY follow the instructions for FLAGS Membership Only at <http://www.flagsteacher.com> .

Have a GREAT, SAFE, and COVID-free Holiday Season!

**Evelyn Bejarano**, FLAGS Membership Chair