

# SLPS TESOL ExcELLEnce

Issue 8

April, 2020

## Teacher of the Month Olga Fernandez-Gonzalez, Mason ESOL teacher

Ms. Fernandez-Gonzalez has been working tirelessly to ensure all ELL students on her caseload at Mason have access to technology and to the classroom content. She has been creating bilingual ESOL supports and contacting families on an everyday basis to ensure students continue their academic learning during the virtual learning experience.



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## Honorable Mentions for the Month of March

**Julia McDonnell**, Dewey ESOL teacher, for student, parent, and staff supports.

**Keary Ritchie**, NCNAA Program 9-10 @ Roosevelt ESOL teacher, for student and parent supports

**Kim Strand**, Long ESOL teacher, for student and staff supports

**Amy McLean**, Woerner ESOL teacher, for student and staff supports

**Kathrine Morris**, Mason ESOL teacher, for student and parent supports

**Nicole Misra**, Soldan ESOL teacher, for student and parent supports

**Meredith Vesoulis**, Woodward ESOL teacher, for student and parent supports

**Lisa Rigg**, Mann ESOL teacher, for student and parent supports

**Addie Boeving**, Mullanphy ESOL teacher, for student and parent supports

## SLPS Educator of the Year FINALISTS

Two ESOL teachers are among the finalists in the Specialty Category for the Educator of the Year:

**Constance Berry**, Mann Elementary  
**Lisa Rigg**, Mann Elementary



## Language Access Updates

Submitted by Ms. Rhodes, Language Access Team

The shift to distance learning has been creating a unique challenge for millions of parents across the U.S. Among them are EL parents who face additional challenges when they are thrust into the role of their children's primary educators and are expected to keep them on track despite their own limited English proficiency in many cases.

While for many school districts throughout the nation the task of providing language access might be a new major adjustment during these schools' closures, here, at Saint Louis Public Schools ESOL Office, we continue assisting our EL families in keeping schools and students connected during the virtual learning experience as usual, only with much higher volume. During school closure, the SLPS Access team performs around 1300 service requests a week. Major daily requests are assisting students, parents, and SLPS staff in navigating variety of online platforms.

The ESOL language access services, such as **interpreting for a meeting** (through a 3-way calls or Zoom), **recording robocalls in multiple languages**, **document translation**, **personalized phone calls (and sight translation) in various languages** and **emergency calls assistance** offered prior to spring break, remain the same.

Below is the list of the newest addition of translated documents that are currently available to the district families and staff:

- Continuous Learning Letter
- Daily Learning Schedule
- Saint Louis Schools' Pandemic Meal Plan
- ELL Meal Voucher
- Student Family Equipment Contract
- iPad Ready for Pick up Letter
- Letter to Parents
- Unable to Contact Note in Multiple languages
- SLPS Virtual Learning Plan & Guidance Documents for Students and Families - In progress
- 2020-2021 Code of Conduct – In progress

Please continue to reach out directly to the interpreter you need for the languages offered through the ESOL languages access team using the following link <https://www.slps.org/Page/42009>. For other languages not offered through the language access team, principals in the ESOL center schools received a site specific code for telephonic interpretation. SLPS staff in non-centers can contact Fatima Rhodes for assistance in languages not offered through the district language access team <https://www.slps.org/Page/27448>.



## SLPS Foundation All Star Winners

Submitted by Amanda Wiesner-Groff, ESOL Coordinator

We would like to send congratulations to the following ESOL Program team members for their nominations and recognition as SLPS All Stars during the first two weeks of virtual learning! Each Friday, the SLPS Foundation will recognize innovative district team members committed to supporting SLPS students, families, and staff.

### Winners:

**Theresa Klebert (Roosevelt High School)** - Providing a 90-minute Microsoft Teams demonstrations and tutorial to all High School ESOL teachers through Zoom. Her knowledge and support allowed for easier transition to, and comfort with, this new virtual learning platform.

**Diana Marin (ESOL Office)** – Diana is leading the ESOL Mobile Food Pantry during COVID-19. Guided by district's Transformation Plan, she supports district goals around equity and English Language Learner success. She is packaging food bags provided by Operation Food Search based on the number of adults and children in the family, adds hygiene packs that are supported by the Roblee Foundation, and learning packets. She then does porch delivery of these items to ELL students and families who are unable to get to our district food distribution sites and are in need of food, hygiene, and learning packets.

**Katie Shanahan (Mason Elementary)** – Katie worked tirelessly with the classroom teachers getting in contact with ELL students. In total, Katie assisted Mason team members in reaching 133/140 ELLs.

### Honorable Mentions:

**Linette Floth (Oak Hill Elementary)**- Provided excellent ESOL support. She has connected with families, helped make sure ESOL families completed the technology survey, and has assisted in planning student online assignments.

To see a complete list of current district winners, and to submit a nomination, click the following link <https://slpsfoundation.org/news/slps-foundation-all-stars-honoring-slps-shining-stars/>

Please note, nominations will open each week on Fridays and close the following Wednesday at 12pm.



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CHILDREN. SCHOOLS. ACHIEVEMENT.



## To Gateway STEM ESOL Students!

Shared by Mr. Johnston, Gateway STEM ESOL Teacher

ESOL students from Gateway STEM, among other Gateway STEM students, were participants of the SLPS district-wide math competition.

The students volunteered themselves to represent Gateway STEM and worked closely with Mr. Ceric to prepare for the competition by staying after school to work on both their schoolwork and problems from past competitions. Gateway STEM and the ESOL Program are proud of the following students' accomplishments in mathematics and in the competition where they collectively received 10 out of the possible 15 trophies from their pool.

1. Sun Minsheng
2. Kamela Dervishaj
3. Kiet Ly
4. Moses Thau Ceu
5. Alexander Petronilo-Morales



## Remote Learning Resources: ESOL

### Choice Boards

Submitted by Heather Tuckson, ESOL Coordinator












Looking for a way to provide students with additional English language development opportunities during virtual learning? The itinerant ESOL teachers have created ESOL Choice Boards in multiple grade level spans. The ESOL Choice Boards allow families to engage their students in multiple enrichment activities. Teachers can provide PDFs of the Choice Boards to content teachers to include in their Virtual Learning platforms. Keep in mind these ESOL Choice Boards are intended to be used as enrichment English language support, and not a requirement for students to complete.

- Elvira Hodzic-Salesevic created PreK boards that focus on four weekly listening and speaking activities.
- Betsy Trapp and Cheryl Boesch co-created choice boards for elementary grade levels K-2 and 3-5. The elementary choice boards provide 8 weekly activities in all four domains.
- Jessica Martin created secondary level choice boards with 5 weekly activities focusing on language domains which can be used for grades 6-12.

Weekly ESOL Choice Board PDFs will be shared with you on a weekly basis via email. Please share with the content teachers at your schools, as well as on your websites/Virtual Learning platforms.

### Grades 3-5 Choice Board Sample

#### ESOL Choice Board for Grades 3-5: Week of April 13<sup>th</sup>

 <p>Watch a Brain Pop Jr. video of your choice and do one activity.</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p> <p>Username: slps2020 Password: slps2020</p>	  <p>Scholastic Learning at Home Grades 3-5 Week 1 Day 1 Nothing Can Stop Her!</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p> <p>(Note: check out the Text-to-Speech function on the left for additional support Challenge: after reading the article, create 5 -10 questions you would like to ask Jordan)</p>	 <p>Reading a Fiction Story Parts of a Story Summarizing The Closet Creatures</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p>	 <p>Write A Letter to Your Favorite Author</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p> <p>(Here are the websites of some of your ESOL teacher's favorite authors. Who are your favorite authors? Enjoy exploring! ) Kate Messner-<a href="#">Click Here</a> Gordon Korman-<a href="#">Click Here</a> Wimpy Kid-<a href="#">Click Here</a> Roald Dahl- <a href="#">Click Here</a></p>
  <p>Scholastic Learning at Home Grades 3-5 Week 1 Day 1 Compare and Contrast Hottest and Coldest Places</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p> <p>(Note: check out the Text-to-Speech function on the left for additional support Challenge: follow the direction to create your own map)</p>	 <p>Sequence of Events</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p> <p>(Watch the video and make a note of all the sequence words you hear during the video. Challenge: write the order of events of something you like to make OR make your own video of something you enjoy. Use sequence words to explain the order of events. Have fun! )</p>	  <p>Scholastic Learning at Home Grades 3-5 Week 1 Day 1 Drawing Fraction Line Plots Whales in the City</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p> <p>(Enjoy learning about whales and listening to whales sounds. Challenge: follow the directions to create your own Line Plot)</p>	 <p>Nonfiction Reading Comprehension Magician of the Sea</p> <p><a href="#">Click Here</a></p>



## ESOL Supports and Collaboration for Virtual Learning

Submitted by ESOL Program Coordinators, Amanda Wiesner-Groff, Heather Tuckson, Jessica Brookman, Elena Okanovic

As we navigate our new reality of continuous, virtual learning, the SLPS ESOL teachers have shown great flexibility, innovation, and dedication to learning through various methods of virtual collaboration and support. Despite all challenges, ESOL teachers have shown commitment to ensuring students can successfully access and participate with virtual learning content.

Support Type	Resource	Grade Level	How to Access
ESOL supports for content teaching and learning	ESOL Supports Toolkit	K-12	Contact ESOL teachers
Additional language development practice in content areas	ESOL Choice Boards	PK-8	ESOL teachers websites
ELL student resources for learning at home	Symbaloo	K-12	ESOL program website
Online ELL resources for students and teachers	Resources for Multilingual Learners	K-12	SLPS website
Supports to ESOL teachers in their grade clusters	Small group collaboration	K-12	Zoom, TEAMS
Individual coaching of ESOL teachers	Planning & Reflective Conversations	K-12	Phone Zoom Emails
Virtual collaboration of ESOL teachers	Small group collaboration	K-12	TEAMS

## Supporting our Community in the Hodiament Area

Submitted by Dr. Gonzalez Del Castillo, ESOL Program Director

On Saturday, April 11, 2020, in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Advancement, ELL and SIT families who live in the Hodiament area were able to receive meals from the Salvation Army. Over 1,200 meals were distributed.

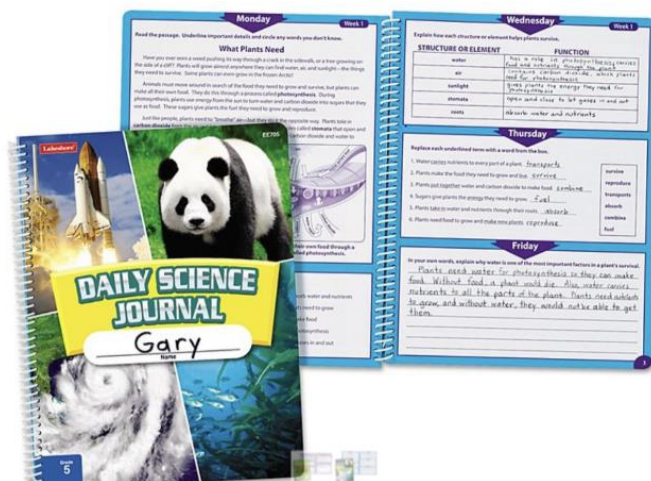
Thank you to everyone who supported this event by working on the meal vouchers, translations, and phone calls. For pictures, [click here](#).



## ESOL Family Involvement

Submitted by Tuyet Nguyen, Bilingual Family Specialist

A special thank you to Diana Marin, who has been delivering care packages to families during this difficult time. Along with food and hygiene essentials, care packages include a grade-appropriate Math or Science Daily Journal for additional learning resources. The Daily Journals have daily guided activities for ELL students to learn and practice key math skills or develop critical thinking and build science vocabulary.



## Call for PD Proposals



### The 2020 ELevate: Elevating English Learner Success Conference

The conference is scheduled to take place in St. Louis on October 6-7. Last year, our program was very well represented at the ELevate Conference with several sessions offered by ESOL team members. If you would like to present or co-present at the conference next year, please feel free to contact your coordinators prior to the individual submission of proposals.

Acceptance of proposals to present a breakout session (50 minutes), or hands-on workshop (100 min) at the conference are open now. Use the following link to submit a proposal: <http://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/4c7213e5-37e9-4a76-9835-13330bc3a6eb>.

**ELevate 2020 Content Strands:**

#### **Assessment and Accountability**

This content strand focuses on how to measure and evaluate student growth and/or ways to ensure English Language programs, teachers and students are working productively.

*Possible presentation topics include: ideas for formative assessment; ways to provide students with feedback on language and content learning; preparing students for the ACCESS test or state testing; setting student language goals; ideas for evaluating EL programs, etc.*

#### **Culturally Relevant Teaching and Biliteracy**

This content strand focuses on strategies and initiatives that foster academic success while connecting to the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of students.

*Possible presentation topics include: helping students earn the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy; creating culturally relevant lessons in different content areas; multilingual school libraries; strategies for translanguaging as pedagogy, etc.*

#### **Effective Instructional Practices for English Learners**

This content strand focuses on successful strategies to integrate language learning and literacy across content areas.

*Possible presentation topics include: student engagement; strategies for differentiation; ideas for developing student academic discourse skills; embedding technology; writing and presenting content and language objectives; content-based language objectives; project-based learning, etc.*

#### **Resources for Student and Family Support**

This content strand focuses on how school structures or community organizations can help meet the social, emotional, academic or health-related needs of immigrant, refugee and/or English Learner students and their families.

*Possible presentation topics include: programs promoting social-emotional learning; effective counseling practices; collaborative partnerships with community organizations; successful family engagement initiatives, etc.*

#### **Specific Populations**

This content strand focuses on ways to support English Learner students that belong to a particular category such as ELs with IEPs, ELs in Early Childhood, Newcomers, ELs in Gifted programs, etc.