

First a Dream, Now a School

What started out as an idea over two years ago by three Hoboken moms to offer a rigorous, dual-language education to Hoboken children became a reality, as dozens of state and local officials and families joined in the celebration of the opening of Hoboken's newest school.

"We have taken current research and best practices from many dual language schools to create HoLa," said Jennifer Hindman Sargent, a founder, president of the board and HoLa parent. "The two-way immersion approach has been effectively implemented for decades, with great success in terms of students' academic performance and linguistic development."

Mayor Dawn Zimmer helped cut the ribbon at the school on August 27 and spoke about the importance of school choice. Also on hand were Teresa Ruiz, state senator and chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee, Assemblyman Ruben Ramos (an HoLa parent), Carlos Lejniaks, chairman of the New Jersey Charter Schools Association, Gary Greenberg, executive director of the



From left: Frank Raia, Carlos Lejniaks, Anthony Romano, Ruben Ramos, Teresa Ruiz, Mayor Dawn Zimmer, Gary Greenberg, Jennifer Sargent, Camille Korschun

Boys and Girls Club of Hudson County, Scott DeLea, founder of Party with a Purpose and B&GC trustee, City Councilman Michael Lenz and Anthony Romano, Hudson County freeholder.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We Have Fun, But Our Curriculum Challenges Kids

Dear Parents,

I hope by now you have realized what a different school we have here. It's not just that your children are using their most receptive years to acquire or solidify a second language (or third for some!)--but we are carrying out a rigorous educational program for the whole child.

In late September, we assessed each of our students along both academic and linguistic parameters to determine what they know and how best we can challenge them to achieve their potential. That information helped us divide students into small groups by level, so each child benefits from small-group instruction in

the critical literacy and math areas. We are focused on challenging each child in every subject every single day.

In addition, now that we have a better understanding of each child's existing Spanish fluency, the teachers can better



differentiate along those lines as well. In Two-Way Immersion classrooms, the goal is to support and hone the language skills of native speakers, while introducing the second language in an organic manner to non-native speakers, through the medium of academic instruction—all while delivering curriculum content that is challenging and grade-appropriate. Our native Spanish speakers are acquiring new vocabulary that they are unlikely to acquire otherwise—academic Spanish vocabulary—and avoiding the language attrition that tends to occur even in households where Spanish is spoken regularly.

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Nuestro Jardin

Parents Prepare Garden for Students' Outdoor Adventures



HoLa launched its first of a series of Friday “specials” last month with a mini-course on the life of a garden. This topic was chosen both as a complement to the current schoolwide theme, “Nuestro Planeta” (“Our Planet”), and as a way to introduce all of our students to the HoLa community garden, which is currently being developed on the grounds in the back of the school.

A huge thank you to all of the parents who helped prepare the back yard for the first stage of its transition into an urban oasis for our children! On September 11, approximately 35 parents participated in a Garden Clean-Up Day to remove debris, blend soil, prepare beds, trim trees and MUCH more. The transformation is incredible, and the students are thoroughly enjoying their time in the garden each week.

So far, the students have learned about worms, and about the ways these curious little creatures benefit the soil. As they carefully handled the lively “red wigglers” and observed them through a magnifying glass, the children also learned about the worms’ physiology and behavior.

Each class then worked as a team to create its own mini-sized vermicomposter. This involved creating a habitat for the worms

that consisted of bedding, water, and organic matter ready for composting (coffee grounds, egg shells, leaves, discarded greens, etc.). The worms are now working hard, creating great compost for the spring, when we will be planting vegetables, herbs, and flowers in the enriched garden soil.

Each class has its own designated 8 ft. x 3 ft. garden bed. The children first added fertilizer, peat moss and vermiculite to the dirt in the beds, and then planted some late-season seedlings (lettuce, pickle cucumbers, thyme and oregano) and radish seeds – all graciously contributed by Farmer Rich of the Catalpa Ridge Community Sponsored Farm. They also learned about the structure and function of seeds and about the life cycle of plants. Each class planted some seeds (those fast sprouters: beans and pumpkins) in small containers, which they will be able to observe in the classroom in the weeks ahead.

The children will learn about insects, and the impact of insects on the garden. The children will learn about the distinguishing features of all insects, and about some of the fascinating characteristics of various insects they may find in the garden. Special attention will be given to the insects we want to attract to our garden: ladybugs (everybody’s favorite!), praying mantids, butterflies, and bees. The children will learn about the life cycle of these insects, and about the role these beneficial insects play in the ecosystem of the garden.

Accompanying our lesson will be seven praying mantis nymphs, which the children will observe, each in its own mini-habitat, through their magnifying glasses. We hope these little critters (which can live up to 10 months) will grow and thrive over the weeks ahead, at which time some of them will take up residence in the HoLa classrooms.



HoLa parents worked hard on Saturday Sept. 11th



Music! Art! Steal the Bacon?!

Sure, we're serious about achieving excellent literacy skills in both Spanish and English and carrying out a rigorous curriculum in math, science and social studies. But HoLa is also about the whole child—and that's why our rich serving of Specials has our creative and physical juices flowing.

Patricio, our music teacher, is working with the younger students on Spanish language songs and discovering new instruments and rhythms, while the 2nd graders are learning the fundamentals of music notation. An afterschool guitar class has started strumming each week as well.

In art, Holli is creating mixed media pieces with all of the classes, using collage and paint, and even finding unique places to hang them (HoLa's answer to The Gates?!)

Gym—twice a week-- has been loads of fun as Jason teaches us all to play Steal the Bacon, Kickball and other old-school games that teach us about rules and teamwork, while getting us moving and having fun.

Once a week, we have also been going down to the garden to plant veggies and flowers, study insects and worms, and get super-messy while we explore the natural world hands-on.

Upcoming Friday specials cycles will include theater arts, dance, visual art, classical and world music, cartooning, and poetry!



What Your Child is Learning Right Now

By Jennifer Austin, *HoLa parent and professor of Spanish and linguistics at Rutgers-Newark*

As we complete our first month at HoLa, you may be wondering how your child's Spanish is developing and what to expect in the next few months. In writing this column I hope to shed some light on early second language learning, particularly for parents whose children do not speak Spanish at home.

Comprehension precedes production: In the beginning, children can understand a second language much more readily than they can speak it. Helping to develop a child's vocabulary in the second language is especially important for comprehension, and takes advantage of the astonishing rate at which school-age children can learn new words (around 10 words per day in their native language (Bloom, 2000)). Parents can aid this process even if they do not speak Spanish by exposing their child to the language outside of school through bilingual books, Spanish-language media and trips to events in Spanish.

The second language develops like the first: Young children ages 2-6 who are immersed in a second language after international adoption go through the same developmental stages as children acquiring a first language, although they proceed through the stages more rapidly than infants do (Snedeker, Geren & Shafto, 2007). They produce more nouns than verbs initially and their early sentences are short and tend to lack grammatical words (e.g. "want juice"). Take-away for parents: your child's early sentences in Spanish will probably be short and may contain grammatical errors such as "el mesa" instead of "la mesa." These mistakes will gradually disappear as your child becomes more fluent in Spanish. He/she may also code-switch in the early stages between Spanish and English (or other home languages).

Literacy skills transfer from the first language to the second: Virtually all the skills important for learning to read can be transferred from one language to another (Bialystok, 2007), with the exception of spelling rules and syntax (for instance, the rules for forming questions in Spanish and English). Parents should continue to read to their child in their home language(s) and to encourage their child to read in it, too. This will help their child's emerging literacy in Spanish.

In the next newsletter, I will discuss language-learning strategies for the parents of HoLa students who speak Spanish at home. Please contact me with any questions or comments: jbaustin@gmail.com

References:

- Bialystok, E. (2007). *Acquisition of literacy in bilingual children: A framework for research. Language Learning, 57(1): 45-77.*
- Bloom, P. (2000). *How Children Learn the Meanings of Words.* Boston, MA: MIT Press.
- Snedeker, J., Geren, J. & Shafto, C. (2007). *Starting over: International adoption as a natural experiment in language development. Psychological Science, 18:79-87.*

Classroom Stories

KINDERGARTEN

HoLa Kindergarten's morning meetings are already happening in Spanish as we quickly got up to speed on our routines. If you stop by the classroom, you're likely to catch us singing songs because we love to sing in Spanish as we're learning new words. Just go ahead and ask us how to sing "Head, Shoulder, Knees and Toes" en español!



We even sing during snack time, especially when Srta. Alfaro accompanies us with her guitar. We are learning and recognizing letters and sounds—including the letter "B," which took us on a trip half a block a way to visit the bomberos (firefighters). What an amazing trip—we had so many questions and the firemen thought we were quite an inquisitive group. We are also exploring our five senses—in Spanish, of course. Our visit to a nature center in October will extend this sensory study out of doors with a special program!

We have made so much progress in learning our colors that we discovered how to make new colors by reading the Eric Carle book, *Animales*. Just like the author, we used colored paper to figure out that if we mix rojo (red) and azul (blue), we come out with morado (purple).

We explore our environment and every subject through art as much as possible. We are even developing a drawing journal about the garden and the changes we observe in our classroom bean and pumpkin plants that we started with seeds. We also love to write our own stories and have our friends act them out in our Reader's Theater—what a way to develop our writing skills! Language arts are intrinsic to everything we do—new vocabulary, sight words, dialogue, word games, songs, phonic practice, etc. Math skills are also incorporated throughout the day. In addition to practicing counting and adding in various modes (grouping, visual representation, verbal descriptions, equivalent sets, creating shapes...), we spend a portion of each day in hands-on centers, which all build on aspects of math and/or language arts: tangrams, chess, make believe, unit blocks, matching games, dominoes, and more. When the teacher works with small groups for reading practice, the rest of the class goes to centers, and there is a happy buzz of collaboration, concentration and fun in the room!

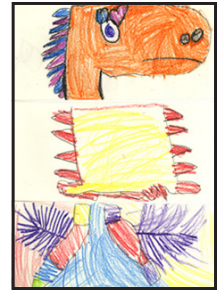
We can't wait for October, when we will apply our counting skills (we're up to 40!) to the semillas (seeds) in our calabazas (pumpkins). I wonder what we will wear for el día de las brujas (Halloween)? Also in October, we get to see ZooZoo at the New Victory Theater, a perfect way to transition to our Theater Arts theme!

FIRST GRADE

HoLa First graders start our day on the rug and greet each other in Spanish, making sure every single one of us is recognized. We ask each other ¿Cómo estás? (How are you?) and ¿Cómo te sientes hoy? (How do you feel today?) We're so curious that we even ask each other ¿Que comiste anoche? (What did you eat last night?) and other questions to prompt dialogue.

We are developing our Spanish communication skills so quickly and also learning to care for our classmates in this special time of morning bonding. We are now fully immersed in the 90/10 model after a brief transitional period. During this period we focused on creating a non-threatening learning environment where we feel we can take risks, especially in a school like ours where the curriculum is rigorous and some of us are learning a new language.

We are very close to mastering our vocales (vowels) and we're starting to add consonants to them to build syllabic sounds. We are taking in over 20 new vocabulary words a week! We are learning our capital and lowercase letters and knowing when to use each. Distinguishing between proper and common nouns will be the foundation for building sentences on our own, which we are looking forward to doing soon. Assessment of our math and literacy skills in both English and Spanish has been an important part of the first weeks of school, so that our teachers can create fluid groups for these subjects in order to differentiate instruction most effectively.



Our math curriculum is becoming more rigorous, because we are now understanding basic Spanish math vocabulary. We'll soon be playing educational math games, with directions in Spanish, so we can keep on honing our reading skills. Also, addition and subtraction facts will be studied through standard notation ($5+6=11$) and word problems. We'll soon be translating word problems into standard notation and vice versa.



In keeping with our school-wide theme of *Nuestro Planeta* (Our Planet), first graders had a terrific time getting up out of our chairs and finding our classrooms' norte, sud, este y oeste (north, south, east and west). Next, we're on to maps and exploring plains and mountains and different habitats. As scientists, we not only observed the growth of the garden we helped plant, which we will continue to do throughout the year, but we dissected lima beans and recorded what we saw, making sure we are developing our writing skills every chance we get.

SECOND GRADE



The second grade team launched right into community building in September, combining classrooms and creating some big goals, as well as defining our hopes and dreams for this school year.

As a brand new school, with every child coming from different academic settings, it was important to take some time initially to assess everyone in terms of both academics and linguistics so that our teachers can differentiate instruction as needed.

Our class is wonderfully diverse linguistically—with a wide range of bilingual skills in Spanish as well as other languages like Swedish, Hindi, Arabic and Dutch. This first month, many of us who previously had very little exposure to Spanish already started to form sentences in Spanish, and those of us already proficient in Spanish have been acting as leaders and models as we learn our classroom routines and rules.

At the same time, we are intensely focused on a rigorous reading and writing program in English. While we write every day in class, we also work on our own long-term piece every month that we brainstorm, write, revise and edit ourselves. Along the way, we have two individual writing conferences with our teachers every week. Our *palabras de la semana* (words of the week) are an opportunity to challenge ourselves to write those words in sentences in both English and Spanish.

We are also creating our own Spanish-language dictionary, so that when we write in Spanish independently, we have a guide. It also helps all of us build our dictionary skills.

Now that the teachers know us better, and have a better sense of our skills in both Spanish and English, we will start daily small group work in math and language arts.

We have been reviewing and building on math concepts we began in first grade, while learning the vocabulary in Spanish as well as in English: calculating money in dollars and cents using both addition notation and word problems, telling time, finding multiple equivalent sums, working with geometric shapes and more. With our new vocabulary under our belt and a firm grasp on the fundamental concepts, we are ready to blast off!

In September, we enjoyed our trip to the Liberty Interpretive Center, where we studied first-hand four different types of trees, their life span, and what it really takes for trees and other plant life to survive and thrive.

In October, we're traveling to Manhattan to the New Victory Theater to see *El Gato Con Botas*, a modern adaptation of *Puss In Boots*, re-imagined as a puppet opera for kids!

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Our curriculum is designed to not just cover New Jersey's nine core curriculum standards, but to well exceed them, particularly in math and language arts. Every day, our teachers are building your children's skills through engaging and creative projects. They are learning by doing and making connections across subject areas, rather than solely by rote memorization. This is sound practice in any setting, but is a particularly good match for dual language classrooms, as it allows for a variety of learning modalities. Science, social studies, history and art are incorporated throughout the day in a cross-curricular manner. For example, developing literacy skills may be practiced and reinforced during language arts period in the morning through reading, writing and discussion about a new social studies theme, while the week's math concept may be applied to the measurement component of a science lesson later in the day.

In addition, our kids get 30 minutes of recess a day, which is key in promoting the consolidation of new academic material, and preparing the mind and body for stretches of attentive study in the classroom.

As you know, the *Nuestro Planeta* theme will be coming to an end shortly. All of our classrooms learned about seeds, roots and the growth cycle of plants, in addition to the characteristics and roles of worms and insects. We will continue to visit the garden throughout the year as the students observe the effects of the weather and seasonal changes, and students will take responsibility for maintaining the garden as they continue to learn about the natural world both in and out of the classroom.

Starting October 15th, Mile Square Theatre will begin weekly bilingual theater workshops with each class as part of the *Palabras Luminosas* theme. Students will learn about theater arts while expanding their vocabulary and practicing speaking and performing in front of their classmates. Theater is a wonderful medium for self-expression and the development of strong communication skills.

The more a child enjoys the process of learning, the more likely s/he will be able to focus, stay engaged and seek more information. We want our students to be fully engaged and to love to learn — even when they don't realize that is what they are doing!

Maria Acosta
HoLa Director

COMING UP . . .

Starting October 15, in synch with the start of the second school-wide theme "*Palabras Luminosas*," which explores language, literature and theater, Mile Square Theatre will present a series of bilingual theater workshops each Friday! Stay tuned for the next update.....

ENRICHMENT/AFTERCARE

We know all the kids really love HoLa during the school day. But some kids just don't want to go home! No wonder—HoLa launched its enrichment program this month with a big menu of options: Theater, Chess, Mad Science, Guitar, Capoeira, Latin Dance, Jewelry Making, Magic, Aviation, Cooking, Track Team, Sports Clinic and more!

From 2:45-3:45 pm, our students have the option to extend their day with classes of their choice. Some classes are free, and none cost more than \$115 for an 8-week session. A big thank you to Jenn Eisenberg and KK for being our guinea pigs with their "alpha" enrichment offering in September! The entire school got to enjoy a showcase of the dancing and drumming routine they worked on, and we hope that they will come back to teach again soon.

In addition, our teaching staff oversees our classroom-based aftercare program through 6pm. They've created a schedule that includes fun and downtime, but also an opportunity to do homework. Kids get to enjoy art projects, tutoring, basketball, free play/outside time and other activities. This just in: Starting next week, the ever popular Derek will start teaching hip-hop on Tuesdays, for any HoLa kids who are registered for aftercare and are interested!

HOLA'S HEALTHY LUNCH PROGRAM

Potatoes, Grilled Chicken Sandwich—This is not the typical school cafeteria. These are just some of the choices this week from the Revolution Foods program that begins this month.

Revolution Foods (www.revfoods.com) delivers tasty and healthy meals, as well as nutrition education, to schools and programs across the country. They operate on the principle that every child's education should include healthy eating and learning about nutritious food.

Every lunch includes fresh fruit and vegetables, a healthy carbohydrate, and lean protein. Did we mention organic ingredients, hormone- and antibiotic-free meat and a partnership with Whole Foods? You will see our local Rev rep, Roz, around frequently – like at Back to School Night (10/13)– and she is happy to conduct workshops, and to respond to parents' and kids' feedback about meals.

Each day brings no fewer than three choices. If there's something you'd like to see on the menu, speak up! We are going week to week as parents and kids alike get used to the menu choices, but we hope to start a monthly ordering cycle before long. We will start scheduling parent volunteers to help in the lunch room in mid-October!

WEBSITES

Spanish and English Language Resources

- ABC Language Exchange - www.abclang.org
- Alianza Dominicana - www.alianzadom.org
- Bright Steps - www.brightsteps.com
- El Museo del Barrio – www.elmuseo.org
(Theatre, dance and other programs in Spanish)
- El Pequeño Artista - www.elpequenoartista.com
- Hola Playgroups - www.holaplaygroup.com
- Juguemos a Cantar - www.juguemosacantar.com
- Affiliate of the American Library Association - <http://reforma.org>
(provides resources for Spanish English bi-lingual students and parents)
- Música Para Mí - www.musicaparami.com
- Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children - www.csusm.edu/csb
- Bilingual Books for Kids - www.bilingualbooks.com
- Bilingual Families Web Page - www.nethelp.no/cindy/biling-fam.html
- Bilingual Journey - www.bilingualjourney.com
- The Bilingual Pages - <http://www.angelfire.com/ut/henrikholm/bilingual/bilingual01.html>
- Bilingual Parenting in a Foreign Language - www.byu.edu/~bilingua
- Hispanic Federation - www.hispanicfederation.org
- Hispanic Online - www.hispaniconline.com
- SpanishToys.com - www.spanishtoy.com
- Zona Europa - www.zonaeuropa.com
- Zona Latina - www.zonalatina.com

PARENT TRANSLATOR

Need help with translating works in Spanish or English?

Try Google's translation tool. It translates and pronounces the word for you!

<http://translate.google.com>

BUY SHOES, BOOST HOLA!

Shop at Via Mode this month and 10% will go to HoLa

Use the code: HoLa

Submit your receipt- it's that easy!

URBAN ARTS

HoLa thanks Urban Arts for their Support!

Check out Urban Arts' Saturday drawing and painting class for 7-9 year olds at 9:30 a.m.

Contact 201-222-5400

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES AT HOLA

Class Coffee Socials begin on **Friday, October 1st (7:45 – 9:30am)**. This is your chance to chat with other parents of your child's class after morning drop off. Then parents are invited to join their child upstairs in the classroom during their morning meeting. The October schedule is as follows: 10/1: K-Alfaro, 10/8: K-Mendez, 10/15: 1-Garcia, 10/22: 1-Salvatierra.

The **Revolution Foods lunch program** begins on **Monday, October 4th!** HoLa Hoboken's all organic, healthy lunch program is sure to delight, so be sure to check the menu each week, select your choices, and return orders and payment each Monday.

Back to School Night will be **Wednesday, October 13th** from **6:30 – 8:00pm**. Parents will have the opportunity to meet our HoLa specials teachers, revolution foods, and more from 6:30 – 7:00 in the gym. Then it is up to the classrooms where parents will learn about what is happening in their child's classroom.

Be sure to smile pretty on **Monday, October 18th** for **School Portrait** day. Order forms will be sent home in your Friday Folders and you have the option to purchase picture packages.

HoLa will celebrate **Halloween** on **Friday, October 29th** with a neighborhood parade! More details to follow on what to wear and when the activities will take place.

CONNECTIONS – SCHOOL & HOME

There are many activities taking place in the month of October in Spanish. Be sure to take advantage of some of the great museum exhibits and performances to further enhance your child's education in Spanish, outside of school.

Museo del Barrio Free Third Saturdays

(NYC at 105th st and Fifth Ave)

www.elmuseo.org/en/event/target-free-third-saturdays-october
Saturday, October 16 at 11am-8:30pm

Once a month, El Museo del Barrio opens its doors to everyone interested in exploring the vibrancy and diversity of Latino Culture. Through free concerts, exhibitions, gallery tours, art making workshops, walking tours, film screenings, and spoken word recitals, SUPER SABADO! showcases traditions, cultural expressions, art, etc. This month, get your calaveras out of the closet and join us for a very special Super Sábado, Día de los Muertos Celebration, as we celebrate Mexico's beloved 3,000 year-old tradition that commemorates friends and relatives who have passed away with a free fun-filled day of activities! FREE!

MAD Saturday: Family Day (NYC at 59th & 8th Ave)

www.madmuseum.org/DO/Calendar/201010/MAD%20Saturday_Family%20Day.aspx

Saturday, October 16, 2010, 11am to 4pm

(not in Spanish, but Hispanic themed)

Family Day offers countless opportunities for children to create, learn, and explore. The MAD's Galleries, Open Studios, workshops, and theater are the perfect place to spend a day discovering art, meeting artists, watching films—and being creative. Exploring the Museum's exhibitions Think Twice: New Latin American Jewelry and Dead or Alive, children will discover how artists transform organic materials—feathers, shells, bones, plant materials, and fur—to create intricately crafted and designed installations and sculptures; children will

also make jewelry inspired by contemporary jewelry of Latin America. (ages 6 and up) No reservations required, but space is limited. All materials provided \$30 per family.

Dia de los Muertos at the Museum of the American Indian (NYC at Bowling Green)

www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=events#/i=6

Saturday October 30 from noon to 5pm

Enjoy a fun filled day for the entire family including hands-on workshops, storytelling with the Colorado Sisters and Michael Herald, and dance performances by Cetilitzli Nauhcampa (Mexico). FREE!

Latino Heritage Festival at the Newark Museum

(Newark)

www.newarkmuseum.org/latinoheritagefestival.html

Saturday October 30 from 12:30 to 4:30

This event includes bilingual presentations, live music and dance, art-making workshops, and food tasting. The performance is at 2:30. Crafts include decorating sugar skulls and a dancing skeleton, making a paper marigold, and paper cutting. There is also tastings of Mexican hot chocolate and Pan de Muertos. Free with admission which is \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids.

Mano a Mano presents Dia de los Muertos

(NYC at 11th Street & Second Ave)

www.manoamano.us

Sunday October 31 from noon to 8pm, St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery 131 E 10th St New York, NY 10003

This Mexican organization hosts a kid-friendly annual Dia de Los Muertos Celebration. Last year's events and workshops included: Paper Crafts for Day of the Dead, Sugar Skulls, Day of the Dead Bread, Poetry for Day of the Dead. Performances include traditional dancers and street theater based on traditional stories performed in Spanish. FREE!

A LETTER FROM THE PTO

Bienvenidos! We are so very excited that the school year is off and running. Just looking at all of the activity and parent involvement that has taken place so far, one would hardly guess that this is the first year for HoLa and our PTO.

All in their very first week, the PTO sponsored a Coffee/Kleenex day and a garden clean-up for the school. At the Coffee/Kleenex Day, parents chatted over a cup of coffee about the excitement of seeing our children embark on a new school year and make new friends. Days later, volunteers from McGraw-Hill and HoLa parents gathered to clean up the garden by pulling weeds, moving rocks, treating garden boxes with linseed oil and filling them with soil. It was a busy morning and so much was accomplished. Now the kids are busy working in the garden every Friday and learning about "Nuestro Planeta." Thank you to everyone who was able to attend, help or organize these events. Everyone brought great energy and spirits with them.

On September 22, we met for HoLa's first PTO meeting and what a nice surprise to see so many people! It was standing room

only for over 75 parents, teachers, aides and administrators. Now that's school spirit! Thank you all for coming. The focus of the meeting was to introduce the PTO officers, communicate our goals, and to establish and prioritize the events that the PTO will organize this year. Just from listening to everyone's input, it sounds like we are going to have lots of good times.

Our first community fundraiser will be held on November 13, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, and will be hosted by Kindergarten parents of Ms. Alfaro's class. Our attendance is instrumental in the success of their event. Please come out and enjoy in the new company of our big family at HoLa and bring family and friends with you to the HoLa Fiesta! We are looking forward to a year full of great memories, lots of fun and laughter.

With warm regards,
Andrea Mayendia & Norma Ramos,
PTO Co-Chairs

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Hoboken Dual Language Charter School is on Facebook! Be sure to "Like" us and we will keep you up to date on the latest news and upcoming events at HoLa and around our community