

# Elementary Language Education and the Critical Period

By Jay Ritch

Guest Writer  
Children learn language without any real thought. Kids growing up in multilingual environments become bilingual effortlessly. Adults have much more trouble picking up a second language. This phenomenon has been attributed to the Critical Period Hypothesis (CPH), which claims that biological changes around the time of puberty lead to a change in language learning ability. A growing trend of elementary schools tries to capitalize on this natural ability of children by beginning foreign language classes in elementary schools. Howard County has expanded a program teaching children Spanish for half an hour each day. Dual-language and immersion programs are slowly beginning to pop up, as well, but most public schools are opting for traditional foreign language edu-

cation at the elementary level. Recent second language acquisition research suggests that the largest difference is in the way adults and children learn. Children learn language implicitly, or incidentally, whereas adults learn better explicitly, with awareness of the concepts they learn. Traditional language education is explicit; students learn the grammar rules and practice applying them. While children learn languages more readily than adults, no research has shown that children in traditional language classes are any better than their adult counterparts. Immersion is the most successful way to create implicit learning environments. Language immersion schools have shown the most success in teaching children fluency in a second language, and only through these programs can the goals of language education be achieved.

experienced, so drop those textbooks and grab those blankets. Use those papers for something more useful than printing essays – make monsters. And pull out the child inside of you that’s dying to escape the realities of adult life and dress up for some Trick or Treating fun. Join the Language House monster family for a Halloween marathon month.

Staff Writer: **Julie Bayer**  
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## HALLOWEEN from page 1

During the final event, the Open Mic Scary Night, Language House residents will be asked to dress up for the costume contest that will take place between acts. The winner of the contest will get an amazing prize from SAAB and will also get his or her picture printed in the next edition of *The Phoenix*.

This month will be better than any Halloween you have ever

## The Phoenix Staff

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# From the Files of Tantagiorgio

Kugel is a noodle casserole which has its roots in Eastern Europe/Russia. It is a favorite dish of Ashkenazi Jews who brought it to America in the 1800’s. This is a basic recipe that can be enhanced with vegetable or fruit fillings. It is used for many Jewish celebrations and has many variations. I have cooked this recipe with various additions for years. This is often used at a kosher meal, with adaptations, but is loved by all my friends Jews and Gentile alike!

For 12 servings  
Ingredients: 12 oz. package of egg noodles  
3 extra large eggs  
¼ plus 2 tablespoons of white sugar  
¼ plus 1 teaspoon of butter, melted  
1 ½ cups of whipped cottage cheese  
1 ½ cups sour cream  
2 pinches of salt and pepper to taste  
3 Tablespoons each of brown sugar and cinnamon

### Directions:

1. In a large pot of boiling water add noodles and cook for 5 minutes. Drain well in sink
2. Preheat oven to 350degrees. Spray an 11 x 13 casserole dish with nonstick cooking spray.
3. In a bowl mix together eggs and sugar until combined, add melted butter, whipped cottage cheese, sour cream, salt and pepper. Lightly mix in noodles. Spoon the kugel into the baking dish. Sprinkle top of kugel with brown sugar and cinnamon mixture.
4. Bake until th top has brown about 40 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Be daring and add ingredients that you think would be good! Questions? You can always send me an e-mail [george.pelham@gmail.com](mailto:george.pelham@gmail.com)

# The Phoenix

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Persian Proverb: ایش از اذرت غداي صراک

This is said when someone reacts more than they should or the person who is already responsible for something

## Halloween Theme: Unity

By Julie Bayer

Staff Writer

For those of you who were here last semester, you may remember the Open Mic Night, hosted by SAAB, which brought all of the members of the Language House together for an unforgettable experience. This semester, SAAB is going even bigger. The Student Awesome Advisory Board is currently working tirelessly to bring you a month filled with events leading up to an incredible Halloween themed Open Mic Night on Friday, October 24th

Events during the month of October will include building a blanket fort in the basement lounge, watching scary movies, and perhaps some traditional Halloween decoration making (aka pumpkins with monster-like faces). All clusters and clubs will have the opportunity to get involved in this month’s festivities. Movie club will be screening scary movies, and every cluster will be asked to draw or recreate a monster from their culture. Other clubs are also welcome to become involved. Perhaps cooking club would like to bake Halloween cookies and garden club would like to offer up some pumpkins or other foods to carve and decorate.

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# The Language House Breakfast Club

By **Natasha Paulmeno**

Guest Writer

Sunday mornings usually consist of birds chirping at the university's barren sidewalks. While students snooze in the warmth of their beds, some of us rise early for some good ol' Language House bonding.

The tradition started in the Italian girls' apartment, also known as "Little Italy." A group of members from the Spanish and Italian clusters woke up early to do yoga on the mall and spent the rest of our Sunday making omelettes, home fries and pancakes. We chatted until 4 p.m. on our first brunch date and we've continued the tradition since then.

We wanted to spread the word about our brunch tradition and started telling members from other clusters. Everyone is welcome to attend The Breakfast Club. Every week we try to make something different, depending

on what ingredients people bring.

Language House brunches serve as a great way to meet new members and build a sense of community in the house. As part of the experience, we try to collaborate on meals by bringing various ingredients and cooking multiple dishes.

This Sunday we were joined by some new attendees, including the Spanish cluster mentor, Maria Cristina. We made three different types of home fries and French toast. The Italian girls often bring fresh herbs, which they grow in their apartment.

As a new member of the Language House, I love our Sunday brunches and feel I've really gotten to know people in different clusters through our mini-tradition. I hope more people join us in the future! We try to meet every Sunday around 11 a.m. Come join us!

**Arabic:** Tunisia to begin historic parliamentary election; the country's second election since its revolution four years ago.

**Chinese:** Hong Kong's Pro-Democracy protests enter second week despite the decline in the number of protesters.

**Hebrew:** Anger at the Foreign Ministry over Sweden PM's intention to recognize Palestine has led the latter to qualify his statement: "Recognition only after negotiation."

**French:** France's new austerity-budget, designed to salvage a "sick" economy, leads to concern in the EU

**German:** Germany sent humanitarian aid convoy to Ukraine, the German ministry of economic cooperation and development says.

**Italian:** 200 Senior Bishops met with Pope Francis at the Vatican to discuss Catholic Church policies regarding controversial issues such as abortion and divorce

**Japanese:** a controversial law protecting state's secrets will go into effect in December despite strong opposition

**Persian:** photos of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in bed following a surgery raises questions regarding succession

**Russian:** twelve pro-Russian separatists were killed in Ukraine's Donetsk airport in their worst casualty rate since September 5th's ceasefire

**Spanish:** the Spanish PM calls regional Catalanian authorities for talks after thousands demand independence referendum in recent protests

# Concordia 2014

By **Ruth Vassilas**

Spanish Cluster

This year at the 4th annual Concordia Summit in New York City, I had the opportunity to meet the Ex-Presidents of Mexico, Chile, and Colombia, President Felipe Calderón, President Sebastian Piñera, and President Álvaro Uribe Vélez. I also attended a panel discussion where the three former heads of state discussed how public and private partnerships have impacted their countries. Each of them took turns discussing issues faced in their countries and subsequent economic and social improvements and triumphs that have resulted from the public sector and the private sector coming together to find solutions.

One of the most notable and moving parts of the discussion was when President Sebastian Piñera spoke of the 2010 Copiapó mining accident in Chile when 33 men were trapped in a mine for 69 days. All 33 were finally rescued and saved. He remembered with pride how the entire country and region came together, the public and private sectors alike, in a wave of empathetic teamwork to do something that initially seemed unfathomable. Each Ex-President spoke of similar, inspiring accounts of collaboration within their countries and painted a picture of the great impact public and private partnerships can have in Latin America.



Ruth Vassilas at the 4th Annual Concordia Summit

# The Weakening Japanese Yen

By **Lin Kuo**

Japanese Cluster

Just at the end of September, the Japanese yen weakened to 110 yen per dollar, the lowest in six years. This also means that imports are becoming more expensive for companies in Japan as they use Japanese yen to purchase goods or services in other currencies. Although inflation was expected to help the economy, as it is part of the plan in "Abenomics," which refers to the economic policies advocated by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe since December 2012, the weakening Japanese yen can undermine steps to stir the economy. In addition, companies profited from weaker yen and strong sales might not be able to raise salaries to keep up with inflation. The Japanese government is closely monitoring their currency,

I have been paying close attention to the exchange rate since I studied abroad in Japan last year. The fact that the Japanese yen weakened to 110 yen per dollar was shocking to me. I remembered that four years ago when I traveled to Japan, the rate was around 85 yen per dollar. Last year, when I studied in Japan, it was about 100 yen. Now it is 110 yen. This is great news for tourists who visit Japan as their buying power increases significantly. But after learning about the news I became concerned about how the public will react to the the weakening yen. Will the public start to lose faith in Abenomics? I am also very curious about approaches the Japanese government will take if the yen continues to weaken. And for some people, like me, perhaps it is a good time to be thinking about planning a trip to Japan in the near future.



The Garden Club prepares for planting. Photo courtesy of Madeleine Deason