

# Foreign Language Week Ideas

3-9 March 2014

## *New Year's resolution: I WILL help my school to celebrate Foreign Language Week!*

This opportunity only comes but once a year! There are many easy ways to get involved in the celebration – but the important thing is that you get involved and start planning now! This week not only offers us the unique opportunity to highlight the important work we do but it also gives us the chance to share with the larger community (free advertising!).

Learning a foreign language is crucially important (and largely ignored in our society)!

Here's your chance to promote your beliefs and have fun doing it! ☺

Here are some ideas:

- BE SURE THAT FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK IS MADE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY! Be sure that there are announcements in the bulletins, newsletters and local papers - if possible! Invite anyone and everyone to attend events or visit your classroom!
- Make a wall in your school dedicated to foreign expressions. Last year we created a "Wall of Peace" - with Peace in many different languages and symbols.
- Decorate the entry of your school with one hundred ways to say hello/welcome in another language. Use a bulletin board or wall space. BE SURE that there is some information explaining the importance of Foreign Language Week in the display.
- Make posters – flags, maps, common expressions, interesting trivia, etc. – post them around the school.
- Have your students write a paragraph explaining why learning a foreign language is important – select the best ones – get them typed up and have a quote wall in the school with the students' opinions. I've done this several times – they write amazing stuff!
- Have a "food day"! Last year I made five stations in my room – each had an international food/beverage at it (mangos, passion juice, plantain chips, chicharrones, etc.) At each station students may try a bit of the food and they all had charts to fill out – food description, what it reminds me of, my opinion) It was great!
- Morning announcements! Almost ALL schools in Massachusetts have resources inside! Find the students in your school who are willing to greet the school in another language! (Last year at South Hadley we had Vietnamese, Arabic, Spanish, Polish and French!)
- Make it visible! Send out a variety of 'classroom' labels to teachers. Students can easily make these up and organize the distribution.
- Have trivia contests, have a movie day after school, have an international pot luck (especially nice for exchange students!), offer foods during lunch made by students
- PARTICIPATE IN MaFLA'S POSTER, ESSAY and VIDEO CONTESTS! (SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE WINTER ISSUE! or ONLINE at MaFLA.ORG)
- Visit these sites and get MORE ideas!  
[mafla.org/advocacy-2/national-foreign-language-week/](http://mafla.org/advocacy-2/national-foreign-language-week/)  
[www.funtrivia.com/dir/50.html](http://www.funtrivia.com/dir/50.html) trivia on languages quizzes online  
[www.nysaft.org/advocacy/pdf/nflw/flw\\_activities.pdf](http://www.nysaft.org/advocacy/pdf/nflw/flw_activities.pdf) more suggested activities.

Alpha Mu Gamma, National Collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society is the official sponsor of National Foreign Language Week. You can also order posters there too! <http://www.lacitycollege.edu/academic/honor/amg/nflw.html>

Whatever you decide to do - good for you! Your students will enjoy the activities and in your own little (or big) way you are sending a good message to the community! ☺

If you have other ideas, why not share them with colleagues via the MaFLA website.

Send your suggestions/ideas to [ronie@mafla.org](mailto:ronie@mafla.org)