

# Speak Up!

*We want to hear from YOU.*

*Our new online initiative **Speak Up** gives our members a voice. We want to hear your ideas, responses and comments on a variety of topics. You will find a link to **Speak Up** at [mafla.org](http://mafla.org) and we may feature your comments on the website and/or in the **MaFLA Newsletter**. So don't be afraid to "Speak Up!"*

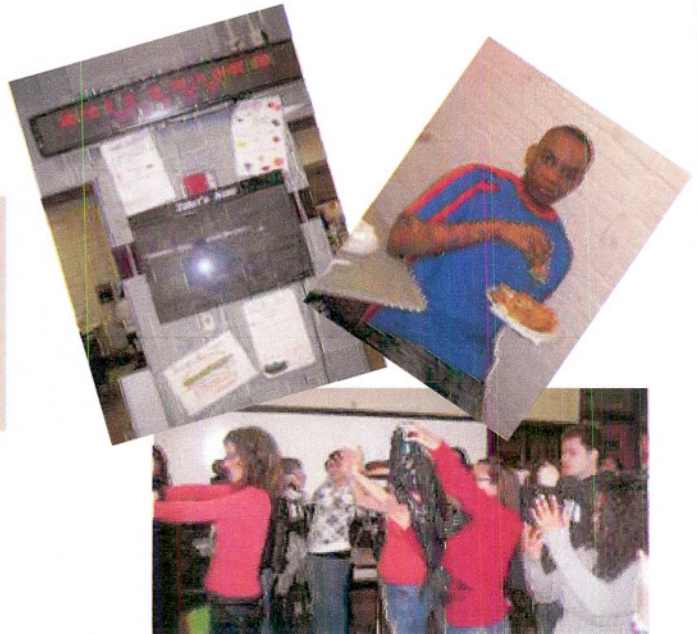
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## **How do you and/or your school celebrate Foreign Language Week?**

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**Christine Kelley, Spanish Teacher  
Boston Latin High School**

We had an International Film Fest, with snacks, in German, Chinese and Italian, dance lessons (salsa, merengue, flamenco, tango) for Spanish, a French food fest, menus in the caf in all languages, days to dress up in heritage outfits or flag colors of our MFL classes, 22 students doing Public Declamation in 6 languages with judges from outside the school community.



**Nancy M. Yang, Mandarin Teacher  
Boston Latin School**

Nancy also enthusiastically responded about their celebration. She said, "we did a movie festival after school. I showed the movie "Joy Luck Club." My students in the Chinese program brought in food - both traditional Chinese food and the regular snack foods. The turnout was great. I had about 50-60 students show up for both the food and the movie. We had a lot of fun. My students suggested that we do this once a month. I don't think I have that much time!"



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**Sinikka Gary, Spanish Teacher  
Narragansett Regional High School**

Sinikka wrote: “we had a week-long celebration with each day starting with announcements in foreign languages. Each student received a passport to be stamped at each of the following events. On Monday we celebrated Asia with a morning tea house, henna tattoos, and an afternoon of making paper cranes. Tuesday was South America day. We had fruit empanadas, juice, and coffee for breakfast, the Spanish classes wore their special Spanish t-shirts and we spent the afternoon making papel picado. The students were also treated to Latin dance lessons. Wednesday was ‘express your culture day’. We had a morning of career speakers who spoke about their careers and the importance of knowing another language. Thursday was Europe day. We had croissants and hot chocolate for breakfast, students spent the day dressed for Carnivale, and Finnish folk dancing lessons were provided in the afternoon. Finally, on Friday, we closed our week by celebrating Africa and by hosting the Bamidele African Dancers and Drummers.



*We at MaFLA hope that you all enjoyed your Foreign Language Week and know that every district celebrates it in its own interesting and fun way! We look forward to hearing a variety of responses to the upcoming questions! Selected responses to future questions will be featured in the MaFLA Newsletter and on the Website. We want to hear from you! It's easy. Just check the bottom of the home page for the link to the next question and fill in the simple form with your information. Please add your voice to the interactive dialogue that we are working to create in our organization!*

*Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions for future topics!*

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