

## Ad Astra Per Aspera



Hello, MAFLA members! We are finally in the month of June and ready for a long summer break! The students to the left are Boston College graduates, class of 2023 and ready and excited for the next steps in their academic careers. So too, are students at public and private schools ready to finish exams and enjoy some freedom and summer fun!

The US Ambassador to the Ukraine, Oksana Markarova, BC's commencement speaker, urges us, however, to find our inner strength stating: "Freedom is not a given. Opportunities are not a given. Democracy is not a given. We all have many battles to fight, many obstacles to overcome, and many challenges to see through. Where will we get the strength? In our responsibility to take action for what we love.



Choose to do that, and in that moment, you will become truly extraordinary.”

At this time of year when we are honoring student achievement and rewarding students for their love of learning, we should keep those words in mind, especially for those of us who are promoting global interaction and cultural diplomacy. In Falmouth, we had a very successful and well attended World Language Award Ceremony where we honored students who

earned the Seal of Biliteracy and the Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction. Over thirty seniors in all earned that honor in Spanish, Portuguese and French. Our high school award ceremony is this Thursday evening and our top French, Latin, and Spanish students will get their certificates from MAFLA, along with the



Leadership in Language Award. MAFLA also has selected two Past Presidential Award Grantees this year:

‘It is with great pleasure we announce the winners of the Past President’s Scholarship award for 2023.

From Fontbonne Academy we are pleased to recognize Ava Robinson, a graduating senior who plans to attend Massachusetts College of Art and Design, with the opportunity to continue studying French through the Fenway Five consortium at Simmons College. According to Ava's teacher, Ava's "ability to interpret texts and audio is outstanding, and she expresses herself in written and oral forms with clarity and precision. Due to her participation in a French immersion program, Ava already demonstrated a very strong level of French in 9th grade. Despite this impressive background, Ava has continued to strive for higher levels of proficiency in all areas. Given her strong work ethic and enthusiasm to participate in class discussions, she has made progress each year and continues to gain cultural knowledge that will help her in her future studies and travel."

We are pleased to announce the awarding of our past president's scholarship to Grace Desai.

From her recommendation letter: "In her four years at Hingham High School, Grace has demonstrated exemplary performance in her Spanish classes, earning grades of A+ or A in every course she has taken. She contributes to a positive classroom environment through her consistent effort and participation in class discussions, and her deep curiosity about the cultures of the world. Equally impressive has been Grace's commitment to our school's Global Citizenship Program...Her portfolio project

focused on the ways in which various nations around the world approach environmental protection, drawing on her travel experience in Costa Rica as a real-world example.”

Congratulations to both award winners and to all our MAFLA Award winners in 2023!

Upcoming Events:

Proficiency Academy: [Here](#)

Summer Institute: [Here](#)

MAFLA Fall Conference: [Here](#)

MAFLA/ACTFL OPI Training: [Here](#)