



# FOREIGN LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Holiday Edition

ISSUE 01

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Bienvenus  
Benvenuti  
Bienvenidos



Welcome to the first edition of the Foreign Language Honor Society newsletter! The holiday season is a time for reflection. This year we want to embrace those people in our lives by making sure they know how important they are to us. It is our hope that the spirit of acknowledging others lasts beyond the holiday season. Best wishes to all.

Dr. Maria Scricco

Language Tutoring Opportunities



The Foreign Language Honor Society will be offering opportunities for students studying a foreign language at Sachem North High School. This service will be a strong effort by the FLHS in order to increase Sachem students' interest in their Italian, Spanish, French, or ASL courses. To register yourself or your students for tutoring, please visit [bit.ly.com/FLHStutoring](http://bit.ly.com/FLHStutoring).



Foreign Language Honor Society members

## Why is it important for students to study a foreign language?

Studying a foreign language has countless benefits, however, the psychological benefits are the most significant. It has been scientifically proven that those who are bilingual, trilingual, or polyglots think more analytically than those who do not. As a side effect of this, if you know more than one language, you are more often than not able to conjure several different perspectives, providing you with a heightened sense of understanding and rational thinking. These psychological benefits enhance one's perception and therefore improve one's understanding of social sciences, analysis of history, understanding of human cultures, and the ability to learn even more languages.

Nicholas Zmudzinski

### French Traditions

*Joyeux Noël!* The French have many traditions for the celebration of Christmas. While most provinces in France will celebrate Christmas on December 25th, some provinces celebrate earlier on December 6th with "le fete de Saint Nicolas". On December 8th in Lyon "la Fete de lumieres" is held. Candles are placed in windows of many homes in order to pay homage to the Virgin Mary. The "sapin de Noel" is the French Christmas tree and is decorated with ribbons, paper flowers, and other festive cultural decorations. These traditions, while tailored to French beliefs, are shared by much of Catholic and Western Europe. Cultural blending of holiday traditions can bring together communities and reveal commonalities between people that would have not been discovered if it were not for this.

Allison DePaoli

### Deaf Awareness

Although many of us would be devastated to lose our hearing, many of those who cannot hear embrace this. Not all deaf people desire the ability to hear, as they enjoy being a part of the deaf community. It is difficult for us to understand, but being deaf is not a disability, however, it is a difference that many of those who are unable to hear embrace as a part of their identity. As such, it is important to acknowledge the deaf community that exists throughout the world by learning sign language, the language of those who cannot hear.



Danielle Guercio

## Perché imparare una lingua straniera?



Quando si conosce una lingua straniera è possibile comunicare con altri che parlano questa lingua. Ci sono tante persone intelligenti e simpatiche che non parlano la tua lingua e per questo non le potrai conoscere. Per esempio, se tu vuoi conoscere una persona; e questa persona non parla la tua lingua; non ti sarebbe possibile comunicare con lui. Quanti amici mancati! Ma se tu parlassi la sua lingua potresti avere un nuovo amico. Ecco perché è importante imparare una lingua straniera. Xavier Sardoni

### Nelson Mandela

How should we remember Nelson Mandela? Mandela, a South Africa anti-apartheid activist and political icon, passed away this month at the age of 95. Mandela, with the help of his wife, battled the white government for many decades and even organized protests and anti-apartheid demonstrations which he was in prison for twenty-seven years. More on Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in Issue 02 of the FLHS Newsletter.

Nicholas Zmudzinski

# Christmas Traditions in Italy

As the holidays draw near Italian children begin to think of the Befana and the gifts that they will receive. Unlike the American tradition of Santa Claus, the Befana does not bring large gifts, hers are small and fit into the stockings that the children place at the foot of their beds - if the home does not have a fireplace. The Befana does not arrive on Christmas Day as Santa does in the US, rather she delivers her gifts on January sixth, the same day, that the three wise men arrived at the manger. While the good boys and girls receive gifts the not so good ones receive coal.

There is even a song; derived from a rhyme; that Italian children sing about the Befana:



La Befana vien di notte  
con le scarpe tutte rotte  
col vestito alla "romana"  
viva viva la Befana!

Con l'arrivo delle feste i ragazzi italiani cominciano a pensare alla Befana ed ai regali che riceveranno. A differenza della tradizione americana di Babbo Natale, la Befana non porta regali di grande valore, i suoi sono piccoli e vanno messi nelle calze che vengono posati al piede del letto - se la casa non ha un camino. La Befana non arriva per il giorno di Natale; come fa Babbo Natale negli USA; invece lei consegna i suoi regali il sei gennaio, lo stesso giorno in cui i re Magi arrivarono alla stalla. Mentre i ragazzi bravi ricevono regali quelli non tanto bravi ricevono carbone.



From our classroom to your home, my students and I wish you a wonderful holiday and a New Year filled with health and joy!

Dr. Frank Scricco

“ La lección de nuestra humanidad inacabada es que cuando excluimos nos empobrecemos y cuando incluimos nos enriquecemos. Porque ninguno de nosotros reconocerá su propia humanidad si no reconoce, primero, la de los otros. ”

Carlos Fuentes

# Christmas in Chile

Imagine having your Christmas tree up, full of ornaments, and decorations covering your house, but it is not snowing nor is it cold--there is perfect beach weather outside. When I was about seven years old I traveled to Chile to visit my family for Christmas vacation and took a road trip with them in southern Chile. I will never forget the experiences that I had while I was on that trip. One thing I won't forget was the different holiday traditions celebrated there. For Christmas Eve my family of about twenty-five people met at my Grandma's house. Everyone there helped with cooking or cleaning in preparation for holiday festivities. The men stayed outside and grilled a huge feast of assorted meats, while the women stayed inside and prepared the side-dishes like salads, corn, and other traditional foods. At the end of the meal and after dessert, it was about midnight. Three minutes before midnight all the parents shouted to all of the children to hide because Santa Claus was coming and if he saw you he would not give you

presents. At that moment we all sprinted to different rooms; jumping under blankets, hiding in closets, and under the bed. I remember thinking how strange this was due to being raised in the United States where everyone sleeps and waits for the next day. At around five minutes past midnight all the parents started yelling that Santa Claus had arrived and naturally everyone who was hiding, including myself, ran to get their presents first and to see the mountain of presents left my Santa Claus. After about an hour long process of opening presents and tediously waiting, all the children went outside and played with their new toys. I remember my cousin and I both received cowboy play gun sets and we went outside to play a game that was similar to a combination of cops and robbers and Native American cowboys. Within a few hours, we all went inside fell asleep. All in all, Christmas in Chile was a fun and different experience that I will never forget.

Sebastian Godíñez

The Foreign Language Honors Society will be pursuing an objective to beautify the B and F wings of the school with art and other language related content. Our goal is to bring life to the plain walls of the hallway in which much of the language classrooms are located.

## FLHS Newsletter Issue 02

Our next issue of the Foreign Language Honor Society news letter will feature an article written by Dr. Mike Ledgerwood, the Chair of the World Languages and Culture Department at Samford University. His article will discuss the benefits of studying several foreign languages and the importance of doing so in regards to the mental capabilities of those who are fluent in more than one language. His article will be featured in our February 2014 edition and will be very insightful to those interested in learning a foreign language.



# An Italian Recipe

Growing up in an Italian family has provided me with many traditions which I cherish especially now at holiday time. I try to recreate them for my children. I am nostalgic as I remember the many Christmas eves and Christmas days spent with my relatives at my Uncle John's and Uncle Nick's homes. The more the merrier was certainly the motto as we all squeezed around the table. This is an Italian recipe for **struffoli**, or as many of you call them "Italian honey balls".

## Ingredients

- 3 ½ cups flour
- 6 eggs, plus 1 egg yolk
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced, plus 1 lemon, zested
- 1 orange, zested
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon limoncello
- 4 cups canola or vegetable oil, for frying
- 2 cups honey
- Sprinkles for sprinkling



## Directions

In a mixing bowl, place flour, eggs, yolk, zest of 1 lemon, orange zest, salt, and limoncello and mix well to form a firm dough, 8 to 10 minutes. Place in the refrigerator and allow to rest 30 minutes.

Remove from the refrigerator and cut golf ball-sized pieces of dough from the main batch. Roll each ball into a 1/2-inch thick dowel (rope) and cut each dowel into ½ pieces. Roll each piece into a ball and continue until finished with all the dough.

In a 12 to 14-inch skillet with at least 3-inch sides, heat the oil to 375 degrees F. Drop enough balls in to cover about half of the surface of frying oil and cook until dark golden brown. Use a slotted spoon to turn them regularly, and expect them to puff up while cooking. As they finish, remove them to a tray covered with paper towels, and drain well. This should take at least 5 batches.

When all of the struffoli are cooked, heat the honey, lemon juice, and zest together in a wide 6 to 8 quart saucepan until quite warm, about 150 degrees F, and substantially thinner. Add struffoli to honey and stir carefully until well coated. Remove from heat and allow to cool for 5 minutes in the pan, stirring regularly. Pour out into a large serving tray in the form of either a pyramid or a ring mold. Sprinkle with confetti or sprinkles and serve.

Rosemarie Racanelli-Bongiorno



# The Festival of Trees and Lights

This year at the 2013 Festival of Trees and Lights the Foreign Language Honors Society participated in the event by offering treats and crafts to the attendees. In addition, the student leaders of the Foreign Language Honor Society participated in the children's luncheon by giving out candy canes and organizing a 'Wish List' box for children to place their desired gifts as a part of the annual Toy Drive next year. The Festival as a whole was a great success. In accordance with other student managed holiday events such as the Student Government food drive and Mr. Cruz's toy drive, FOTAL this year topped off the display of student generosity and altruism this holiday season.

Nicholas Zmudzinski

## FLHS at the Festival of Trees and Lights

