



# News

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## Issue 1. December 2008

*¡Feliz Navidad Amigos!* As the year 2008 comes to an end, we at PlaySpanish® begin a new project: A monthly newsletter.

We want to use this new resource to keep you up to date on what we are learning in the classrooms, improvements to the program, upcoming events, our partnerships with other companies, and other relevant information.

We also want to profile the schools at which we teach, our staff, and our students and their families. You may be profiled in an upcoming issue!

This is just one of many improvements we are making to PlaySpanish® because we are totally committed to its success. We are also working on Podcasts, class videos that you will be able to watch on our web site, and many other ideas. Stay tuned!

You have probably received one or two e-mails from us since we completed the project of entering all e-mail addresses into our computer. This was no small task considering this year we have around 6600 students! By completing this project, we will be able to communicate with you on a regular basis and as quickly as needed in case of any important or urgent news.

Another idea we are implementing in January is the formation of a Parents Advisory Board. We are looking for about 20 volunteers who are willing to meet with us once or twice a month for about an hour to share ideas and suggestions to make PlaySpanish® better. This would be volunteer positions but we do offer yummy snacks and great Colombian coffee during the meetings! If you are interested, please give us a call or e-mail us at [Ricardo@playspanish.com](mailto:Ricardo@playspanish.com).

All these ideas and improvements, as minor as they may seem, are part of our commitment to make PlaySpanish® the best foreign language program in the region.

May The Lord bless you during this Holiday Season. Be it Christmas, Hannukah, or any other holiday, we hope it will be a safe, enjoyable one for you and your family.

*Ricardo, Carmela & the PlaySpanish® staff.*



## December in the Classroom

This month, we will be working with 3 different topics: 1) The Holiday Season and Latin American Christmas traditions; 2) the Family and 3) The House.

On the topic of the family, we will learn the names of its members. Regarding the house, we'll learn the names of the different rooms and things we use every day such as the refrigerator, the stove, the bed and the shower. Then, we will combine both topics and work with questions such as "Where is the dad?", "Is the Grandmother in the dining room or in the living room?", "Where is the towel?" and so forth.

Based on feedback from several parents, this year we will not have our traditional Christmas Get-Together. Instead, we will have it in January when many of you have fewer commitments and more time to come and visit the class.

## PlaySpanish® shares the Holiday spirit!

Since we began operations in 1998, every December we have been involved in some kind of community or charity work. This year is no exception and, in fact, we decided to double our efforts by selecting 2 different organizations.

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The first one is *Project Joy*, an organization that collects toys and clothes for foster children in the Charlotte area. Items needed include toys for girls and boys, clothes, books and school supplies. They also accept cash donations which they use to buy more toys and any other items that might be needed. Please write your check to *Project Joy* and mail it to:

DSS Community Resource Officer.  
301 Billingsley Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28212.

The second initiative we are involved with this year is *Hoorah for Heroes!* We are joining forces with our friend and PlaySpanish® parent, **Jeff Katz**, who is leading the effort to collect supplies for the 3rd battalion 8th marines - a weapons company from Camp Lejeune currently stationed in Afghanistan. These soldiers are living in tents and have no ability to cook, cool or heat up anything except by leaving it in the sun.

They have asked for the following items: Gatorade powder, pop tarts, easy cheese, pringles, chewing gum, hard candy, Oreo cookies, crackers, Slim Jims, Cheetoes, Doritos, power bars, beef jerky, pens, mechanical pencils, wool socks (size 9-12), international phone cards, body wash, foot powder, hand sanitizer, hand and feet warmers, toothpaste, girl scout cookies, ready to eat tuna packs, ready to eat chicken packs, tortillas, hot sauce, salsa (hot and mild), chocolate pudding (instant), fruit snacks, raisins, pecans, almonds, cashews, dried fruit, playing cards, crossword puzzles, sudoku puzzles, assorted movies, protein bars, Bibles, music CDs, magazines, AA batteries, AAA batteries, 3v batteries, 9 volt batteries, portable heaters, long sleeve olive drab large tee shirts and baby wipes.

In addition, they need not only food and hygiene items but also a note of thanks and encouragement. You are welcome to include a note or card. Start them off with "Dear Marine."

These donations will be boxed and shipped to Afghanistan but the shipping costs are extremely high so Jeff is also asking for monetary donations to cover them. Please make checks out to:

PFC Bruce Larson (Det. 1242, MCL)  
Mail to: PlaySpanish®  
743 Pineborough Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28212

On behalf of our Marines (And all members of our armed forces!) we thank you! ***Semper Fidelis!***

## Special Promotions!

You may have heard your child singing one of the songs by our friends at **Professor Pocket** ([www.professorpocket.com](http://www.professorpocket.com)). They produced 2 bilingual CDs which we are using in class on a regular basis. We have used many different music CDs during the last 12 years but this is the first time we endorse one of them. The material is simply excellent and it is a great way to practice the language at home or in the car.

You can listen to samples of the songs by visiting their web site. If you order using the code PLAYSPANISH, they will ship the CDs to you for free.

## Final Bits and Pieces



Winter is almost here and with it comes the possibility of inclement weather. We want to remind you that if CMS cancels classes, our classes will be cancelled as well. If CMS classes are cancelled once the school day has begun, our afternoon classes will be cancelled. If you have any questions, please call our office (704) 569-7955. The answering machine will have a message with any pertaining details.

Once again, thank you for being part of our PlaySpanish® family. ***¡Feliz Navidad!***