



# News

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*¡Feliz Día de San Valentín Amigos! Happy Valentine's Day friends!* All of us at PlaySpanish® hope you are surrounded by loved ones on this special day.

We want to thank you for visiting our classes during the last week of January. Unfortunately, due to the snow day we had, and a delay in the delivery of the newsletter, some of you did not get the invitation on time. Don't worry! We will have two more Parents Days: One in late March and another in late May. Remember, we have an Open Door policy so you are welcome to visit the class any time you want to do so.

The year 2009 is off to a great start! We welcomed *Matthews Elementary* to our list of CMS schools. We also added *Pineville United Methodist Church Pre-School* and *Palisades Episcopal School*. We are excited to see our PlaySpanish® family growing and more children acquiring the bilingual skills they will need tomorrow. Welcome aboard friends!

May The Lord bless continue blessing all of you.

*Ricardo, Carmela & the PlaySpanish® staff.*

## February in the Classroom

During this short month, we will begin learning about several important topics. Pre-Schoolers will be working with vocabulary related to clothes and Valentine's Day. Among other things, we will read the story *The Mitten* and play dress-up.

Elementary school students in their first year of PlaySpanish® will also learn about clothes. Intermediate and Advanced Elementary school students will review clothing and will begin working with the concept of money. Among other games, they will pretend to go shopping and will learn the vocabulary related to sizes, colors, styles, etc. We will also celebrate the Latin American *Carnaval*.

Please keep in mind that these topics may vary from one school to another and even, within the same school, from one group to another due to differences in schedules, previous exposure to the language, length of the class, etc.

## Spotlight on Our Staff

*Sandra Nieves* has been with us for 3 ½ years. She is originally from Lima, Perú. She is married to Marco and they have a 19-year old son named Alvaro who is an Engineering major at UNC-Charlotte.

Sandra came to us after almost 20 years in the corporate world. She is absolutely devoted to her children and that devotion shows in the classroom. Her kids adore her! And she has become Carmela's right hand for many day-to-day functions.

### Inclement Weather Information

We want to remind you that if CMS cancels classes due to bad weather, 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 information. We will also have closing announcement in all local television stations.

## Special Promotions!

Bringing you, our PlaySpanish® family, a variety of products and services that may enrich your life is part of what we offer. That's why we are continuously looking for ways to bring you more ways to make your life easier, more convenient and more enjoyable. You already know about our partnership with **Professor Pocket** ([www.professorpocket.com](http://www.professorpocket.com)) and **Hungry Howie's Pizza**. Today, we want to let you know about our new partnership with our friends at **Monkey Joe's**.



In June and July, we will be offering 2 weeks of summer Camps at the **Monkey Joe's** stores in the Cornelius/Lake Norman area.

In addition, all PlaySpanish® students will receive a \$2 discount on visits to their 4 locations in the Greater Charlotte area (Matthews, Pineville, University Area, and Lake Norman/Cornelius,)

For more information please visit their web site [www.monkeyjoes.com](http://www.monkeyjoes.com) or call any of their 4 locations:

- ✓ *Matthews*: 704-845-1150
- ✓ *Lake Norman/Cornelius*: 704-894-0038
- ✓ *Pineville*: 704-889-1211
- ✓ *University Area*: 704-549-1588

Stay tuned because in the next few weeks we will be announcing other surprises and activities offered in conjunction with our new friends at **Monkey Joe's!**

## It's Time for Summer Camp Planning!

By the time you read this newsletter, the new Summer Camp brochure should be available on-line. You will receive a hard copy through your school.

We are happy to announce that this year we will have **8** locations for the summer:

1. In the **South Park** area, we will be at Sharon United Methodist Church.
2. In **Ballantyne**, we will be at The British American School.
3. **Uptown**: Trinity Episcopal School will be our location.
4. In **Huntersville**, The Christian Montessori School will host our camps.
5. In the **Sardis Road** area, we will be offering camps at Charlotte Preparatory School.
6. **The Palisades (Southwestern Charlotte)** where Palisades Episcopal School will be our location
7. In **Cornelius/Lake Norman**, we will offer camps at Monkey Joe's as mentioned above.
8. In the **Myers Park** area, we will offer camps at The Cornwell Center at Myers Park Baptist Church.

Carmela and the team have been working very hard coming up with new themes, activities and games for the camps, and the surprises are many! As you can expect, we will offer again the ever-popular *Cooking*, *Pirates*, and *Traveling Around The World* camps. It's going to be a fun summer!

We want to close with a few words of encouragement. We know these are uncertain times and many PlaySpanish® families are facing difficulties due to the weak economy, layoffs, and other challenges. Times are tough indeed. However, as individuals who have lived through and overcome substantially worse problems, we encourage you to remain strong.

This is an outstanding country with, even now!, the strongest and most solid economy of the planet. We are the envy of the world. It is so because we have the best quality of life; the strongest, most resilient, most diligent, and hardest working society in the history of humankind but, above all, because we are based on faith, the right values, and the right mindset. Let's give each other a hand and let's carry on! We will do our part by bringing your children a good laugh, enjoyment and a life-changing experience. You do yours by keeping in mind the blessings The Lord has bestowed upon this great nation of ours and upon each and every one of us.

Let's keep things in perspective. Remember that what we call a bad recession, in many other countries is still considered a prosperous economy! Remember that when here we consider our lifestyle "middle class," in many countries that same lifestyle belongs to millionaires!

***We are blessed.***