

# ML MONTHLY MEMO

ML=  
Multilingual  
Learners

DEC. 2022  
VOL. 1 ISSUE 2

## Welcome!

The holiday season is here! We are all excited to celebrate and relax with our families and friends over our long winter break. Below is a list of some of the many holidays celebrated throughout the month of December. It's also important to note that not all students celebrate holidays.

This is a great time to talk to students about traditions they do celebrate with their families--whether they fall in this month or not. Enjoy the season!

- Sinterklass
  - Dec. 5
- Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe
  - Dec. 12
- Hanukkah
  - Dec. 18-26
- Winter Solstice & Yule
  - Dec. 21
- Las Posadas
  - Dec. 16-24
- Christmas
  - Dec. 24-25
- Kwanzaa
  - Dec. 26-Jan. 1
- Boxing Day
  - Dec. 26
- Omisoka
  - Dec. 31
- New Years
  - Jan. 1

## Teaching Strategies

### Cultivate relationships & be culturally responsive

- A successful classroom is one in which students feel known, appreciated, and comfortable taking emotional and intellectual risks. That requires intentional planning and consistent messaging by the teacher.
- It's critical that both the curriculum and the classroom environment honor and reflect the lives of the students.
- You can focus on making sure your classroom library is reflective of your students' diverse backgrounds and identities, and that all students are represented in what you study/learn.
- You can have a scientist/author/explorer of the day and highlight a variety of diverse humans.

### Clarity of learning instructions and expectations

- Write them on the board, say them out loud, translate/define difficult words, model them, and have them share with a peer.
  - These are all excellent ways to make sure your message is clear and that all students can understand.



## Culture Corner

What are some fun holiday traditions (or just fun traditions) that your students practice in their home, or back in their home country? Engage your students in conversation about the traditions they practice, whether it is for a 5 minute chat at the beginning or end of class or through an activity that they get to share with their classmates. This allows you to strengthen the relationship and create a space where all students feel welcome and appreciated as they are.

## ★ ELlevation Tips and Tricks

Choose the "Strategies" tab from the upper right top dropdown list, and click "Activities." You will see a wide range of activities & strategies that you can use with all your students (English and Spanish graphic organizers included!).

## ★ Important Dates

- Admin workshops for compliance (District Office, rm 122 & 123)
  - Dec. 1st, 9 AM-12 PM
  - Jan. 5th, 9 AM-12 PM
  - Jan. 12th, 9 AM-12 PM
- Compliance due
  - Friday, January 13, 2023
- ACT Accommodation requests due
  - December
- ELD meeting
  - Thursday, Dec. 8th
- Winter Break
  - Dec. 22nd- Jan. 2nd



## ★ Reflective Questions

- How is my student feeling in my classroom? Do they look scared, comfortable, or disengaged?
- Are they sitting next to a buddy they can ask a question in their home language?
- Do they feel comfortable tapping me on the shoulder if they have to go to the bathroom? Do they know how to ask to use the bathroom?

## ★ ELD Lead Celebration

This month we are highlighting Alisha Wheeler at Copper Mountain Middle School. If you ask anyone at the middle school, or anyone at all who has worked with her, they will all say the same thing: She is amazing, brilliant, and a wonderful advocate for her ML students. As an instructional coach and ELD Lead, she works tirelessly to support her teachers in supporting their ML students and she has a wealth of information that even the most veteran teachers learn from. She is a safe space for both staff and students as they work to learn from each other.  
THANK YOU, ALISHA!



**Remember to share your student and ELD successes with your teacher specialist! We want to celebrate YOU!**

**Need help? Contact your Language Teacher Specialist!**

