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The A.P.P.L.E. Seed

(American Professional Partnership
for
Lithuanian Education)

E-Zine

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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR !! Where does the time go?

May we remember the warmth of the holidays as we enter the New Year and embrace the Winter season. You will be hearing soon about plans for A.P.P.L.E. 2013.

I wish you a wonderful, healthy New Year and sincerely thank you for your involvement and commitment to A.P.P.L.E.

Please feel free to contact me. Your suggestions are always welcome.

All my best wishes,

Karl

Dr. Karl P. Janowitz
President

Mission Statement:

"The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) is a volunteer international non-profit educational organization. With the support of the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, A.P.P.L.E. partners with Lithuanian educators to foster the implementation of innovative educational approaches that contribute to the development of a democratic society."

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - Rasa Alaburdiene



Rasa Alaburdiene

Assistant Director and Computer Science Teacher
Prienai Revuonos School

I learned about A.P.P.L.E. in 1991, during my first year of teaching. During the next few years I was pleased to attend the Math strand seminars in Vilnius and Birstonas. These seminars pleased me greatly with the subject matter presentations but even more for the new methods of teaching and the friendly atmosphere. The evening and recreational activities helped me become familiar with this group from the USA.

In 1999 our school participated in a contest to create a page on the internet during a CyberFair. We were very pleased that our submission won third prize. The title of our project was "Where Gliders are Born". The first congratulations we received for our

success came not from our townspeople but from A.P.P.L.E. board member Amanda Muliolienė of Cleveland OH. We were very surprised and appreciative of her recognition of our achievement. The next year we organized a winter computer science seminar with Amanda at the Prienai Revuonos school, where I was working. The seminar served a dual purpose where the teachers in our school had the opportunity to improve their computer literacy, and students learned about the nature and geography of the USA through lectures illustrated by photographs from the travels of Amanda and Algirdas Muliolis. Working with Amanda and Algirdas, the students also were guided in how to improve their internet project about the Nemunas Loops Regional Park. A few years later these lecturers came back to lead computer literacy seminars for teachers in the schools from the entire Prienai region.

When the educational system decided that students in the 11th and 12th grades would be allowed to choose subjects that would accommodate their strengths and interests, a computer program that would help schedule students and classes was needed. Because I work as a computer science teacher, but also as the assistant director in charge of scheduling, this task was a particularly important challenge. Amanda Muliolienė helped me with the challenge of finding a computer program that could efficiently accomplish this task. She asked that I review a few programs that she had found that were for use in scheduling and I gladly agreed to attend the seminar that winter. The following summer I attended the A.P.P.L.E. seminars and learned to use MIMOSA, the scheduling program that was chosen for use during the winter seminar. The next summer we attended the MIMOSA seminar in preparation for being consultants for the program, which was financed for use in all schools in Lithuania by Amanda and Algirdas Muliolis.

This consultation work was the start of my participation as a lecturer at the A.P.P.L.E. seminars, which I did for 10 summers. Most of the strands were about using technology in schools and developing computer literacy for teachers. I worked with many diverse groups; administrators, math and computer science teachers, as well as teachers of other subjects. The people changed, topics for discussion changed but during this time there was always one constant association - my work with Amanda Muliolienė.

I am very happy to have had the privilege of working with the A.P.P.L.E. lecturers. It was a professional, educational and leadership experience with many new associates and opportunities for growth.

Summer 2013 Call for Proposals

The deadline for applications for participating in A.P.P.L.E. summer courses for 2013 is fast approaching. Proposals are due by January 15th. Information on who should apply to teach, what topics are of particular interest, and other detailed information on what to expect and how to apply can be found on the [A.P.P.L.E. website](#).

The theme for 2013 is "Real World Applications of What We Teach". The goal is to encourage teachers, administrators, staff, families, and others involved in the educational process to ensure that what we teach has relevance beyond the classroom. We will address strategies for translating what is presented in the classroom into practical outcomes for 21st century learners.

New for 2013 is that upon completion of their commitment, a \$750 stipend will be provided to lecturers to offset transatlantic travel expenses. WE encourage you to volunteer now.

Lithuania - Education in the News

On January 3rd, The evening news program *Panorama* on Lithuanian Television (LTV-1) featured two stories on different aspects of Lithuanian education.

The first story dealt with the courts setting aside new stiffer requirements, originally announced in August, for high school students to enter universities and colleges. Among the requirements was that students pass 4 qualification examinations upon completion of their high school studies in order to receive government financing of their education at top universities. They would also be tested in foreign language proficiency. Higher scores would have given them a higher rank in competition for university status. Interestingly, while proficiency in Lithuanian language is also tested, it would not affect rank. The changes have now been postponed until possibly 2015.

A second story dealt with home schooling in Lithuania. You may be surprised to know that while home schooling is quite prevalent in the U.S., it is only permitted in Lithuania for students who have physical disabilities or illnesses that prevent them from attending a regular school. The possibility of home schooling for all students is still being studied. Among the concerns is that parents may not have the necessary qualifications or have so many other obligations that they can not devote a sufficient amount of time to proper schooling of their children.

Fundraising Corner

Now is the perfect time to make a gift to A.P.P.L.E.

You may click on the button below to make a donation using PayPal.

What will different levels of donations accomplish?

- For \$100, you can provide an ink cartridge and paper so that A.P.P.L.E. can distribute lesson notes to teachers.
- For \$200, you can provide a stipend for a translator.
- For \$450, you can underwrite the distribution of our newsletter.
- For \$500, you can sponsor a Scholar's Fund Grant.

A minimum donation of \$25-individual or \$40-family will enroll you as a member of A.P.P.L.E. for one year.



A.P.P.L.E. is a 501(3)c organization, which means that your gifts are tax-deductible. Our tax-exempt number is 23-2682202. Because of strict IRS regulations, we cannot accept donations intended for specific people. If you would like to support relatives or friends, please do so directly. The A.P.P.L.E. scholar grants are intended for Lithuanian educators who do not have contacts in the United States.

This electronic newsletter is designed for quick delivery of A.P.P.L.E.-related news to an audience that includes current A.P.P.L.E. members, friends of A.P.P.L.E. and interested potential members both within the United States and Lithuania.

Increasing communication and the exchange of ideas among our members increases the strength of our organization and our ability to be relevant to our Lithuanian constituents. Exciting and pertinent events occur all year round, and we want to keep all of you abreast of what is happening, when it's happening.

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