

John Baltrus

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Sent: Thursday, January 09, 2014 12:02 AM
To: jonaspb@comcast.net
Subject: News from A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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

(American Professional Partnership
for
Lithuanian Education)

E-Zine

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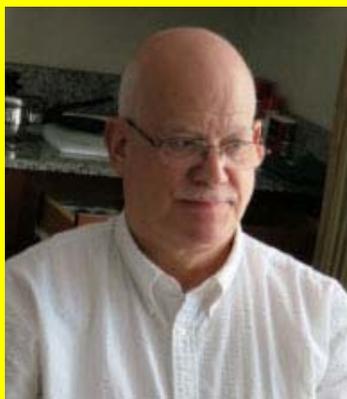
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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2014. Having just experienced record cold here in the U.S., may you remember the warmth of the holidays as we enter the New Year and embrace the winter season. I wish you a wonderful, healthy New Year.

You will be hearing soon about our plans for A.P.P.L.E. Summer 2014. My sincere thanks for your involvement and commitment to A.P.P.L.E. and its mission.

Feel free to contact me as your suggestions are always welcome.

Happy January!

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. 2013 Summer Program - Storytelling

In this month's abbreviated issue, we again bring you a report from last year's program in Lithuania. We look back on our successes as the 2014 program approaches.

The new Storytelling Strand at A.P.P.L.E. 2013 presented methods that combine traditional and new approaches to teaching writing and speaking skills.

Stories have always been a part of education, especially in history and language classes. This Strand presented nine story-based classroom projects that crossed disciplines. They ranged from traditional projects like story reading and listening to non-traditional projects like true, personal stories and using story-based mobile applications.

The Strand addressed the writing component of stories. Students use many methods to develop writing skills, including essays, technical papers and journalism articles. All of these methods give the student practice with implementing vocabulary and grammar knowledge to meet a specific goal. Writing fictional or true stories is another method that also gives the student similar opportunities for practice.

The Strand also addressed the performance component of stories. Students use many methods to develop this skill as well, including debate and class presentations. Telling stories in front of a class also gives students practice with speaking in front of a group.

While several of the story-based class projects applied most to language and history classes, the Strand also explored sources for stories that could be used in Science, Math and Social Studies classes.

The teachers took one of the class projects, writing and telling a true, personal story, and completed the work themselves. Each of the two classes held a storytelling

performance on the last day of the class. This was my favorite part of the class! The stories were funny, sad and sometimes both! The writing skills of the teachers were very strong and their performances demonstrated their excellent speaking skills.

The second of the two classes expressed concerns that storytelling wasn't academic enough for the classroom. My opinion is that writing stories is a method that uses language to meet a specific purpose, the same as writing essays or technical papers. Also, public speaking is an academic skill taught with other methods already. This was a new method to teach the same thing.

There was also concern about telling true, personal stories in a class. Some felt that only the academically qualified and those most accomplished in their fields should be writing or telling stories. I disagreed. I believe everyone has a story to tell and sometimes we can learn more from stories of people who are more similar to our selves. There is a time and place for all kinds of stories and this is one kind that I believe is an excellent addition to more traditional stories used in the classroom.

I enjoyed my time at A.P.P.L.E. 2013. The country has changed so much since I first came to A.P.P.L.E. in 1995. The teachers are more confident and out spoken. It is an exciting political time, with lively debate about current events and issues. One thing is the same, though. The people are just as kind and the country is still as beautiful as I remember. I especially enjoyed a visit to a couple's home and a tour of a window factory. The museums, shops and restaurants in Kaunas and Vilnius were a special treat as well.

I've been telling people about my trip to Lithuania and they are very interested in the country. I even wrote about it on my blog, GrowingUpAustin.com, under the 'A Lithuanian Story' heading. I want to thank A.P.P.L.E. and the Lithuania teachers for rewarding, sometimes challenging, and very memorable conference.

Lithuanian Television Program - Tevu Klase

Each Sunday at 17:00 (10 a.m. East Coast time), LRT, the Lithuanian State television station broadcasts a program called "Tevu Klase". The program presents the latest news from Lithuania's schools.

The program answers the questions: What new is happening in the schools? How are the children being taught today? And what kind of career prospects await them in the future? The program not only shows teachers, students, and experts in various fields, but highlights famous Lithuanian people as well. Successful people and entrepreneurs, along with recognized artists open their doors and openly talk about how they develop and nurture their children, what the problems are, and how to deal with them creatively. This past Sunday's program focused on parental involvement in the schools.

The program can be viewed online live by going to <http://www.lrt.lt/mediateka/tiesiogiai/lrt-televizija>. Archived copies of the three most-recent programs can be viewed any time at http://www.lrt.lt/televizija/laidos/6667/tevu_klase. Of course the programs are in the Lithuanian language.

Other News from A.P.P.L.E.

Don't forget that the official Call for Proposals to volunteer as a lecturer for A.P.P.L.E.'s 2014 Summer Program can now be found on the [A.P.P.L.E. website](#). Detailed information on how to apply and an application form are included. The deadline for

applications is January 15, 2014.

The latest round of Lithuanian Scholars Fund proposals have been evaluated and ranked. We are currently deciding how many we will be able to fund. Watch the A.P.P.L.E. website for an announcement of the winners. We hope to feature some of the highly ranked proposals in upcoming issues of the EZine.

Fundraising Corner

You can help us support more good proposals that were received seeking funding from the A.P.P.L.E. Scholar's Fund by making a donation to A.P.P.L.E. You can make a direct donation to A.P.P.L.E. by [clicking here](#) and using PayPal. Make sure to add a note if you wish that your donation be specifically used for a Lithuanian Scholars' Fund grant.

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. Lesser amounts will be combined to fund a 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. Of course, donations are still welcome by mail: A.P.P.L.E., 105 Sturbridge Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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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