

John Baltrus

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Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 3:05 AM
To: jonaspb@comcast.net
Subject: News from A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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E-Zine



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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

"Happy New Year and welcome to 2015!" May you remember the warmth of the holidays as we enter the New Year and embrace the Winter season.

The "Call for Proposals" for A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th and final Summer Seminars is now posted. You will be hearing soon about our plans for A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th and final year.

My sincere thanks for your involvement and commitment to A.P.P.L.E. and its mission.

Happy January! Have a wonderful, healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

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."

Deadline for Summer 2015 Proposals- February 1st

Plans for A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th and final summer program for Lithuanian educators are underway. You are invited to join this rewarding exchange of current educational practices.

Deadline for Proposal submission is February 1, 2015

The dates for the sessions have not been determined, however we anticipate two, one-week sessions, either June 22nd-June 26th and June 29th-July 3rd or June 29th-July 3rd and July 6th-July 10th. The exact number of hours constituting a week's session may vary dependent on the King Mindaugas holiday and other program and travel constraints. You will be expected to make a two-week commitment to the program. When you receive notification of acceptance you will receive details about dates in order to make travel arrangements. Lecturers will be required to be in Lithuania a few

days prior to the start of the first session.

Who Should Apply?

Applicants may be preschool, elementary, or secondary teachers, who have a master's degree in education or associated discipline, and who have demonstrated excellence in teaching. College or university faculty with expertise in teaching in education or closely related disciplines are welcome to apply. We are seeking teachers and other education professionals who are prepared to share their knowledge and demonstrate expertise in current theory and practice related to the theme: Meeting Today's Educational Challenges

Topics of Special Interest

The Ministry indicated topics of interest. In the area of Educational Leadership presentations on working with parents, teacher coaching models, conflict resolution, motivating teachers, and sessions on how to organize school activities and school organizations are desired. In the area of Instruction there is interest in kindergarten teaching. For the first time Lithuania will institute a half-day kindergarten, so that children will enter public school a year younger than they have traditionally. Information on kindergarten teaching practices from a developmentally appropriate perspective are requested. English as a second language for elementary school-age children is also a topic of interest. New to Lithuanian schools is that 5th grade students will be provided a computer. Sessions delivering multifaceted information on how to maximize the utility of computers for students and parents, integrated within the context of the classroom and access to resources in the school community were requested.

Teachers in attendance at the Summer 2014 program in Kaunas expressed interests also: learning how to work with parents; instruction in science, music and art; after-school programming; use of technology in the classroom; team building to improve school functioning; conflict resolution; inclusion of children with different learning styles in the classroom; integrated learning; gifted education; and differentiated instruction.

These topics are of particular interest, however proposals focusing on other educational topics are welcome.

More details, including information on how to apply and what to expect can be found on [A.P.P.L.E.'s website](#).

Save the Dates - A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th Anniversary Celebrations

A special reception recognizing A.P.P.L.E.'s 25th anniversary will be held at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on **Friday, April 24th**. For additional details and to secure an invitation, please contact Vida Anton at croliit@optonline.net. A.P.P.L.E.'s Spring Board Meeting will follow on Saturday. Another celebration with our friends in Lithuania is also being planned for this Summer. We will publish more information as soon as it is available. We hope you will be able to join us for one of these events.

Lithuanian Scholars' Fund Winners Announced

The Lithuanian Scholars' Fund (Lietuvos Mokytoju Fondas - LMF) is in its ninth year of existence in Lithuania. A total of 170 projects have been financed by the LMF from 2006 to 2015. This year, 19 proposals will be funded for a total amount of 20,077 LTL.

The winners were recently selected and can be found on the [A.P.P.L.E. website](#).

We will feature some of the top-rated proposals each month. One of those was submitted by Jolanta Bruziene. The details are as follows:

Project Title: Health School "Health Track"

School: Telsiu Region - Nevarenai Elementary School

Class: Second Grade

Occupation: Primary class teacher methodologist

Participated in the 2014 A.P.P.L.E. Summer Seminar - Primary School Teachers Strand.

Requesting: 1,050 - Lt

Project participants: 1st-4th grade students. (50 students)

Need for and objectives of the project:

A modern school aims to provide students not only academic knowledge, but also to educate and encourage them to adapt in real life. 2014 was declared the "Year of Children's Health." During the school year, students learned a lot about health and healthy lifestyle: the importance of physical education, healthy nutrition, basic hygiene, how to appreciate healthy lifestyle skills and extra-curricular activities. Students for the second year participated in the Infectious Diseases and AIDS Centre-organized "clean hands dance" competition. With a fun, dancing rhythm, they learn hand washing movements. This school year, second graders participated in the social campaign "You finish second grade - you know how to swim." Twice a week, the students and teacher with the help of professional coaches learn to swim. Therefore, I believe that this project will allow students to systematize available knowledge and to convert them into health protection and strengthening skills.

A healthy lifestyle is based on attitudes, skills, knowledge and awareness, which are necessary to maintain and strengthen health.

Aim of the project - a creative and innovative way to educate students about healthy lifestyle skills, encourage them to actively spend their leisure time.

Social partners in the project:

1. Dentist: Grazina Jonusiene
2. Family Doctor: Viktorija Sutkuviene
3. Public Health Specialist Regina Lukosiene
4. School Cafeteria Owner Janina Pesteniene

What are the expected changes, if your proposed project is executed? Who will benefit?

Students will understand the importance of combining physical activity, healthy eating, mental activity and rest, plus the impact of personal and environmental cleanliness on human health and the quality of life. Skills will be practiced not only in school but also at home.

They will learn a series of morning exercises, they will practice various other forms of physical activity, learn healthy eating, good personal and environmental cleanliness, and the rhythm of work and rest.

Students will mature in their values to care for and be responsible for their own health, to understand, to recognize those who need help.

What will be the benefits?

During the project, students will meet with the family doctor, to learn why it is so important to follow personal hygiene, and why before each new school year to check their health. They will have the opportunity to get answers to the questions they face.

They will visit the dentist in the dental office and discuss tooth care issues. The School of Public Health professionals will learn to provide first aid in case of injuries. They will share afternoon herbal tea with their grandmothers, and learn about the medicinal powers of herbs. Along with their mothers they will learn healthy eating skills - how to make vegetable and fruit salads. They will learn about the benefits of vitamins through performing the play "Hurray for Vitamins!" They will play sports during "Happy break" time.

How will you evaluate the changes?

I communicate with students on a daily basis, therefore I will notice changes during lesson and break times. Since the project will involve grandmothers and mothers, they will also provide their thoughts about the children's healthy lifestyle changes during parents' meetings and individual meetings.

What tools (books, posters, materials, etc.) will be purchased or made?

A magnetic mat with pockets. The games "Healthy food pyramid" and "Hygiene Skills." Posters "Personal Hygiene". Sports equipment, dental care kits, drawing instruments, stage clothes, etc. We will film our activities with a video camera, so at the end of the project we can show the video "Healthy living - valiant".

Draugas News Publishes A.P.P.L.E. Participants' Poems

We are extremely pleased to announce that four poets from our summer 2014 APPLE seminars have had their poems selected and published in *Draugas News*--the English companion of the oldest newspaper serving Lithuanian diaspora worldwide!

Congratulations to Vilma Baniukaityte, Natalija Siskovskaja, Raimonda Zviniene, and Roma Vazgeliene! They were participants in the strand led by Wendell Mayo. Wendell's article about the poems and about education in Lithuania can be [downloaded here](#).

The article is made available with the permission of Draugas, which publishes *Draugas News*. Readers can learn more about *Draugas News* and its supplement publication, *Lithuanian Heritage Magazine*, by visiting draugasnews.org.

Fundraising Corner

You still have an opportunity to make a donation to honor A.P.P.L.E. and the many volunteers who have served A.P.P.L.E. over 25 years. All donations will be expended towards 2015 programs including A.P.P.L.E. Scholar's Fund. 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. Note that because of compositional software constraints, we are not able to include proper Lithuanian characters in words and names.

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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