January 2019

ELL Parent Center Newsletter

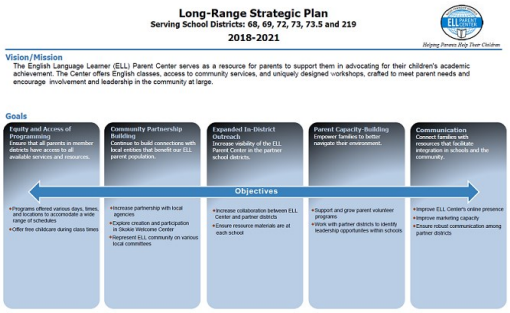
The English Language Learner (ELL) Parent Center serves as a resource for parents to support them in advocating for their children's academic achievement. The Center offers English classes, access to community services, and uniquely designed workshops, crafted to meet parent needs and encourage involvement and leadership in the community at large.

Registration has begun for our January-June classes! We offer English classes both morning hours and evening hours, Citizenship Preparation, an ESL Bookclub, and a monthly Computer Drop-In class with the Skokie Public Library. Details on class times and registration dates can be found on our website: www.ellparentcenter.org

Updates

The Parent Mentor Program is going strong! The program helps parents to connect to their school community by placing them in a classroom, assisting a teacher with small group activities. Parents have been volunteering 3 days per week as well as attending a weekly training focused on personal and professional development. The program runs October through February. You can find more information on our website.

The ELL Parent Center has a 3-year strategic plan to help focus efforts and services in the most effective and efficient way. The Center serves District 219 and the Skokie feeder school districts, with their respective superintendents making up the Center's Governing Board along with the director, Diana Juarez. You can find it on our website.



Long-Range Strategic Plan
Serving School Districts: 68, 69, 72, 73, 73.5 and 219
2018-2021

Helping Parents Help Their Children

Vision/Mission

The English Language Learner (ELL) Parent Center serves as a resource for parents to support them in advocating for their children's academic achievement. The Center offers English classes, access to community services, and uniquely designed workshops, crafted to meet parent needs and encourage involvement and leadership in the community at large.

Goals

Equity and Access of Programming
Ensure that all parents in member districts have access to all available services and resources.

Community Partnership Building
Continue to build connections with local entities that benefit our ELL parent population.

Expanded In-District Outreach
Increase visibility of the ELL Parent Center in the partner school districts.

Parent Capacity-Building
Empower families to better navigate their environments.

Communication
Connect families with resources that facilitate integration in schools and the community.

Objectives

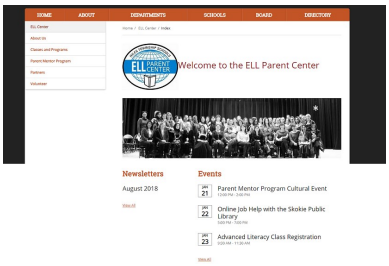
- Programs offered various days, times, and locations to accommodate a wide range of schedules
- Offer free childcare during class times

- Increase partnership with local agencies
- Capture creation and participation in Skokie Welcome Center
- Represent ELL community on various local committees

- Increase collaboration between ELL Center and partner districts
- Ensure resource materials are at each school

- Support and grow parent volunteer programs
- Work with partner districts to identify leadership opportunities within schools

- Improve ELL Center's online presence
- Improve marketing capacity
- Ensure robust communication among partner districts



We have a new website! In order to make our website more accessible and easier to navigate, we have switched to a new layout. Check it out!

Get to know us!

Violet Amrikhasi

Violet Amrikhasi has worked with us for 10 years! She found the position through its first director, Corrie Wallace in its inaugural year, 2008. You can find her working as the evening assistant, after her work day at the Village of Skokie. Violet's experience as an immigrant and as an English Language Learner in this country gives her the ability to really connect and empathize with the families we serve. She speaks Farsi, Turkish, Assyrian, and Armenian!

Nadia, center, with 2 ESL students

Nadia Seitz got to know the ELL Parent Center by being a Parent Mentor in the 2015-16 school year. She was a great asset to the program and was hired as a Parent Mentor Coordinator the following year. In August of 2016 Nadia accepted the position as the day assistant for the ELL Parent Center and she continues to work helping both teachers and parents. With her personal experience as an immigrant and her proficiency in speaking Arabic, she has been a wonderful addition to our family.

If you would like to reach out to us, you can call Diana Juarez at 847-568-7611

or email at djuarez@skokie68.org.