STAFF FEATURE

Becky Swenson, Kinder Teacher

My favorite thing about teaching Kindergarten is to see how much they grow in one year. They come into Kinder not knowing Spanish, classroom routines, their classmates, how to read in Spanish, and leave knowing so much! They sure are sponges when it comes to learning, and to see them learn with smiles on their faces makes it so rewarding. Oh, I love the hugs, too!

Teng Xu, Kinder Teacher

My favorite thing about teaching Kindergarten is that it is personally rewarding! Kindergartners start with knowing little to no Chinese at the beginning, and comprehend what I say in class 100% at the end of the school year!

Your Child’s Incredible Future with Language Immersion!

Shannon Peterson, Executive Director

As an educator with an extensive background in second-language acquisition, I’m always thrilled to see families embrace immersion’s academic power. And as a parent of three LILA grads, I’ve seen firsthand the transformation to bilingualism and I believe it truly brings incredible lifelong benefits.

Certainly, opportunities for travel and higher-paying jobs (and more job possibilities) come with the ability to comfortably communicate with so many more people worldwide. But a career may seem like a long way off. What can you expect in the near future?

Research shows that those with bilingual brains enjoy many additional cognitive and social benefits:

• an increased ability to pay attention,
• better mental flexibility and creativity,
• stronger logic skills,
• an increased ability to learn additional languages, and
• being more culturally aware than one’s monolingual peers.

Another bonus? Standardized tests! On average, fully bilingual children perform AS WELL or BETTER than monolingual students on ANY standardized test in ANY subject starting at about 5th grade.

The pride students take in their second-language skills begins in kindergarten and grows every year. The future looks bright for the class of 2033!

Executive Director Shannon Peterson holds a master’s degree in Second-Language Acquisition from the University of Hawaii - Manoa and a graduate certificate in School Administration and Supervision from Johns Hopkins University in partnership with the International Society for Technology in Education.

Summer Fun With LILA!

This month we’re featuring storytime with Liu Laoshi and Profe Joana in your target language! For added fun, reserve these books in English from the local library and follow along.

Story: Donde esta Spot (Where Is Spot?)
Story: Xiao Zhong Zi (The Tiny Seed)

Registration Now Open!

Get a jump on fall with LILA’s virtual or on-site target language classes and camps designed for incoming kindergarten students.

On-Site Language Camp: Information here. Register here.
Questions? Call 651-464-0771.