

Educators for a Multilingual Maine Summer 2023 Newsletter

A Message from the President of EMME

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June 18 - July 2**

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For many of us, the 2022-2023 school year was indeed challenging and exhausting unlike no other. This was not pandemic teaching, but certainly not students like we have ever known. We are tired and drained. I know I look forward to summer to recharge and I am sure you all do too. I urge you to listen to the language-focused podcast *Growing With Proficiency*, Episode 36 entitled "Summer recharge: Overcoming Teacher Burnout and Reenergizing for Success." The host, Claudia Elliott, who also happens to be EMME's keynote speaker at this year's Summer Institute, talks with Becca Silver, an exceptional instructional coach and the founder of The Whole Educator, about the "band-aid effect" of the summer and then guides teachers through transformative strategies to make a real difference. My wish is that you truly approach the 2023-2024 school year as your best self. EMME's Summer Institute can also help with that. I hope you will join us. EMME is looking forward to next year and bringing language teachers and language learners in the state of Maine together in new and exciting ways. Until then, take a moment to remind yourself you were the best teacher possible this year, and you are already a good educator just in need of a pause.

- Stephanie Carbonneau



SUMMER INSTITUTE

Monday August 14, 2023

University of Maine, Orono

Building: Williams Hall

Keynote Speaker:
Claudia Elliot [BIO](#)

ACTFL Teacher of the Year Finalist

REGISTRATION includes lunch and snacks.

EMME membership (\$40.00) runs July 1st to June 30th.

	MEMBER	NON MEMBER
Early through June 30th	\$50	\$75
Regular July 1st-31st	\$75	\$100
Late August 1st-10th	\$100	\$125
NEW TEACHER (up to 2 years experience) with paid EMME membership	\$50	—

8:00-8:20 Check in

8:20 - 8:35 Welcome

8:40 -10:00 Session A

Keynote speaker

10:00 -10:15 Coffee break

10:20- 11:20 Session B

(60 minutes with Claudia)

11:20 - 12:20 Lunch

12:20 - 1:20: Session C

1:20 - 1:30 Break

1:30 - 2:30 Session D

2:35 - 4:00 Session E

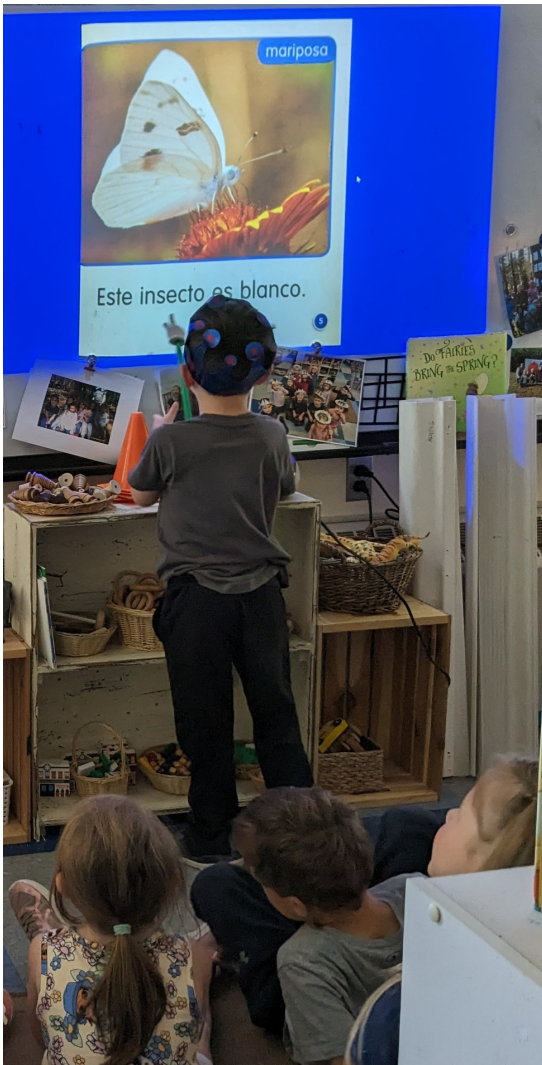
4:05 - 4:30 Closing and
certificates of attendance

[CLICK HERE for membership and registration](#)

Sessions

[CLICK HERE for a full description](#)

Session Title	Presenter
When Pathways Converge: How NBPTS helps support engagement & success with Maine's Seal of Biliteracy	Traci Story
Minimalist Proficiency Focused Strategies to Maximize your Year	Stephanie Carbonneau
¡Vámonos! Using imaginary travel to guide a PreK-8 curriculum.	Heidi Karod
Introduction to Teaching with Comprehensible Input	Anne Matava
Learning Chinese language through the comparison of the culture between China's and Western's.	Jing Zhang and Jingrong He
Milking your daily calendar and weather talk.	Darcy Chase
ASL Teaching Strategies	Barbara Millios
Parallel Grammar in Spoken Chinese and Signed ASL.	Barbara Millios and Jing Zhang
Authentic Games in the CI Classroom	Skip Crosby



**Kindergarten student, Karsen,
leads his class in reading a
book about insects.**

As the newly appointed EMME committee chairperson for NNELL and FLES, I look forward to us sharing our program strengths and challenges to benefit our students by continuously improving world language programs in Maine.

Kristen Tagg
kristen.tagg@rsu34.org

RSU#34 debuts Spanish Language and Cultures Programs in Elementary and Middle Schools

The RSU#34 School District of Old Town, Alton and Bradley debuted Spanish language and cultures programs this school year in kindergarten through 8th grade. The programs are off to robust starts with high student and staff interest and enthusiasm. Students have learned basic Spanish phrases and vocabulary while gaining knowledge in hispanic cultures.

The inherent value of these new world language programs is evident in the following perspectives of many people in RSU#34.

We have long sought to expand our world languages programming beyond the high school level, and were thrilled going into the 2022-2023 school year to finally have that opportunity. I recently visited a kindergarten classroom where students were excited to share - in Spanish - what they've learned about insects. It was fantastic to see students so eager to speak, read, sing, and appreciate another language and culture, not even realizing there was a science lesson about insect anatomy snuck into the mix.

- Jon Doty, Assistant Superintendent

We are so happy to be able to offer world languages again at our middle school! Our students enjoy learning language and culture through a variety of engaging activities. We built a foundation for all grades this year, and next year will expand our offerings.

- Gert Nesin, Principal of Leonard Middle School

This story continues on the next page ...

SU#34 debuts Spanish Language & Cultures Programs (cont.)

Working on establishing a new program as a first-year teacher was daunting at first but it has been such an amazing experience and I have been supported so much along the way! The enthusiasm for this program from both kids and administration has been fantastic. Many of my middle school students have already decided that they will continue with taking a world language class in high school after building confidence in Spanish this year. I can't wait to see how we will all continue to build together next year!

- Maija Overturf, Old Town Middle School Spanish Teacher

I am privileged to have the opportunity to be part of the growth of our world language programming. Feedback by students, parents, teachers, administrators and students has been overwhelmingly positive. I am continuously impressed by my students' eagerness to learn and absorb a new language as well as their inquisitiveness about the world.

- Kristen Tagg, Elementary Spanish Teacher

As a parent of three young children, I am so grateful that our school district has expanded foreign language education to our elementary and middle schools. Previously, I felt that the absence of this program until high school was a huge missed opportunity, and a contrast to schools in other regions. Now, our children have the opportunity to build a solid foundation in a foreign language, which will benefit their overall academic performance and cultural appreciation. The world is vast, and this program helps open my children's eyes to that.

- Rachel Umphrey, parent

I like Spanish with Señora Tagg because we always have fun, we do fun games, we ask each other questions in Spanish (and answer them), we fill out worksheets, and we watch funny videos. Spanish is so fun. - **Zoe, 3rd grade student**

**A
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G**

Calling all German educators! We'd love to have you at the annual Deutsche Woche workshop in Bar Harbor from July 30 - August 5th. The theme this year is "Teaching German for Intercultural Citizenship and Sustainability." We'll learn more about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and our guest Professor - Dr. Manuela Wagner - will share many wonderful ideas for making topics of sustainability accessible to all levels and ages of language learners. Please read more about the week and find the [application here](#).

Kerry Anderson kerry_anderson@maranacook.com

Annemarie Orth was named the EMME 2023 Language Teacher of the Year. She is a World Language Specialist for Portland Public Schools and serves as the testing coordinator for the Seal of Biliteracy, which recognizes a student's proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. As a Spanish teacher at Casco Bay High School, she is a strong advocate for multilingualism and believes that "world language learning is a critical skill in (the) 21st century (that) gives students a different lens through which to experience the world." She shares her expertise with others beyond her school district. She has mentored several student teachers from USM and Bowdoin College, as well as taught master classes at Bowdoin College on teaching and student engagement. She regularly presents and attends local and national conferences for World Language teachers and is a member of the Maine Dept. of Education's World Language Council.



Annemarie Orth
EMME 2023
Language TOY

Congratulations to **Francisca Smith** and **Janessa Trebouet** for being selected as the **Best of EMME 2023** presenters. They will present their session, *Brain Breaks!*, in February 2024 at NECTFL in NYC!



Anika Noak was the resounding winner of our **Student Logo Design Contest**. Her submission inspired the official logo for EMME that was created by Carolina Rave.



Laura Wittmann
EMME 2023
ESOL TOY

Laura Wittmann was named the EMME 2023 English for Speakers of Other Languages Teacher of the Year. In her role as the ELL District coordinator for Bangor Schools, she advocates for students and their families, by connecting them to social and cultural activities in the community as well as connecting them to social workers and local volunteer groups who facilitate social and medical services. She is also a teacher at William S. Cohen School and Mary Snow School. In the classroom, she works to relate her students' background knowledge to the curriculum content, in order to ensure that the students can access the material at the same level as their peers, regardless of their level of English proficiency. She feels that "as a Maine ESOL teacher, (she) love(s) to help students find their voices and tell their stories (in English), and create bridges between their respective home languages and cultures, and their new identities as Mainers."

The Sister Solange Bernier Lifetime Achievement Award is named after a beloved French teacher whose career spanned more than six decades. Catherine Gram received this recognition based on her excellence in teaching and leadership. Her roles included the World Languages Content Leader at Falmouth HS and a World Languages Teacher Leader for the Maine Dept. of Ed. She was president of AATF in Maine, and served as president, secretary, and an active board member of FLAME for many years. Before retiring last June, Ms. Gram was a long-time educator in Falmouth Schools, teaching French at the elementary, middle and high school levels. According to her assistant principal, Jonathan Radtke, "one of her unique gifts was taking the best of new pedagogy, merging it with traditional methods and making students love language learning." She was a kind, caring teacher and a mentor to many world language teachers over the years. Her colleague Wendy Westervelt noted that "students benefited from Catherine's energy, love of the French language and culture and her commitment to share that energy and love of language learning." In her remarks, Ms. Gram spoke about missing her students but witnessing the joy of languages all around.

Language is communication, communication is connections, connections are community, community is togetherness and the best things about togetherness are sharing and joy. - C. Gram



**Catherine Gram
EMME 2023
Sister Solange Bernier
Lifetime Achievement**



**Ellie Nichols
EMME 2023
Student of the Year**

Ellie Nichols was named the EMME 2023 Student of the Year based on her outstanding scholarship and service. She has studied both Chinese and Spanish for the past four years at Bangor High School and is a member of four honor societies - National, Chinese, Spanish, and Social Studies. She is also an active member of the Cultural Exchange Club where she enjoys meeting students from other cultures and learning about their stories, foods and interests. She looks forward to traveling to Spain this year with her school. While cultural activities and languages are her passion, Ellie also believes in service to others both at home and abroad. She tutors others in several subjects and helped run the fundraiser for Ukraine at her school. She is also the co-founder and president of the Teen Mindfulness Club at Bangor High School where she advocates for her peers' wellbeing.

Remembering Ray Pelletier

by Brooke Dupuy



**If you would like to
make a donation in
memory of Raymond
Pelletier, you can click
here to [donate online](#)**

OR

**mail a donation to:
Raymond J. Pelletier
Scholarship, payable
to the University of
Maine Foundation,
Two Alumni Place,
Orono, Maine
04469-5792**

The world lost a great man a week ago. Raymond Pelletier was my professor, my mentor, my friend, and he will be missed. He was kind, generous, funny and he was just a wealth of knowledge about so many things. He cared deeply for people in general, including his many students over the years, and he made sure that people felt that. I believe he made friends everywhere he went, and he always made people feel like he was genuinely happy to see them. He was never too busy to chat. He was always smiling, ever ready to tell a story or share some facts about history, Canada or classical music. He taught me French and Canadian History. He taught me about Franco-American Culture, and he taught me so much about teaching. He even taught me about cooking. He loved to cook, and I believe that was one of the ways he showed people he cared for them. I remember quite a few Sunday afternoons spent in his kitchen listening to him tell stories as he cooked, or on his deck enjoying his tourtieres or other creations. I remember taking an evening class with him, and once he informed us that he was moving class to the Can-Am center that night. We arrived, and he was smiling ear to ear, wearing a ridiculous apron. He had spent the whole day cooking for us. We stayed long after class finished, because we were just having so much fun. I'll never forget driving a van during May Term in France, following him in another van. He went around a roundabout in La Rochelle about 6 times because he just couldn't manage to get out of it. When we stopped he stepped out of the van and just laughed and laughed at himself. It was one of the biggest fou-rires I've ever had. His laughter was infectious, as was his zest for life. There is so much more to say about Ray, but I can't quite put it all into words. I am just so thankful for 23ish years of friendship and mentorship, and grateful that he made space in his life for me and my family. His passing leaves a gigantic (tourtière shaped) hole in my heart.

Read the obituary [here](#).



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Attention: Teachers of Chinese, aspiring teachers, and interested others!



- In person professional development experience
- Learn lesson design, national standards, foreign language teaching methods, instruction differentiation, assessments, and performance-based principles
- Obtain hands-on experience teaching Chinese in an actual class
- Gain information about Maine teacher certification and resources for teaching Chinese
- 3 CEUs credits will be available issued by University of Maine

Dates and Times: June 18 – July 2, 2023, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Bangor Chinese School and Husson University in Bangor, Maine

To reserve your place, please call us at (207) 990-0710 or email jingzhang@bangorchinese.com

***Please register early as this is first come first serve**

We look forward to working with you in a challenging and fun summer experience!



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Date and time: 6/26 – 7/14 9:00 – 3:00

Location: Husson University and BCS Bangor ME

To register online by clicking:

<https://forms.gle/xHPpQ9Ve729ehdSd8>

For more information, call (207) 990-0710,

email: jingzhang@bangorchinese.com,

OR visit: www.bangorchinese.com/DRAGON.html.

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For: Students, Educators, Entrepreneurs and Interested Others



2019 BCS Student Group on the Great Wall of China



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ADDRESS: Bangor Chinese School/CLCCM
5 Woodview Drive, Bangor, ME 04401

ONLINE Registration: <https://forms.gle/Cjh7j25BPBK5SLm59>



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