

MEDIA RELEASE

For More Information, Contact:

Jennifer Nelson, Spanish Teacher
Valley View Elementary School
920-492-2935 ext. 3308
jnelson@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us

Valley View Elementary 4th Graders To Skype With Pen Pals From Ecuador

Ashwaubenon, WI – May 18, 2012 – On May 23rd, Jennifer Nelson’s 4th grade Spanish students at Ashwaubenon’s Valley View Elementary School will Skype with their pen pals from Ecuador. This activity is part of a grant project entitled “Bringing Everyone Together with Technology.” Mrs. Nelson was awarded an NEA Student Achievement grant to help increase Spanish language acquisition and cultural awareness for her students. The Skype session will take place from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the school on 2200 True Lane.

According to Nelson, “Connecting my students with Spanish speakers from another country has been a great motivator for my 4th graders. They are using their Spanish in an authentic way. Having a real audience has made them realize that they really can communicate in Spanish! Using technology as a means to communicate makes it that much more exciting.” The students have written letters the old fashioned way, blogged back and forth using Kidblog, and now will culminate their communication using Skype as a way for students to see and hear their pals. “My students have gained a lot of confidence in their Spanish speaking abilities. It has been a great experience; one that I would like to continue into the future.”

This long lasting project includes the exploration of various Web 2.0 and research tools, and culminates with multimedia projects done in the Spanish language. “Their projects will show what they have learned about Ecuador, how they felt about communicating with students from there, as well as demonstrate their Spanish speaking abilities”, Nelson said. As the NEA Student Achievement grant recipient, Mrs. Nelson’s Spanish classroom will be equipped with \$5,000 worth of technology to provide an enhanced, interactive and inspiring classroom experience that will help students attain the 21st century skills needed to survive in today’s world.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Nelson, Valley View Elementary School Spanish Teacher, at 920-492-2935 extension 3308 or jnelson@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us.

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