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SPORTS, A7



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'Pato, pato... ganso!'

Alphabet Academy and the Purple School combine forces

BY MELISSA KRAUSE
MKRAUSE@WILLISTONHERALD.COM

WILLISTON — Williston has become a hub of opportunity for families all over the world and with an influx of bilingual children, it's become imperative to some that language alternatives be presented to their children.

The Purple School was founded in 2001 by Harvard graduate Joyce Shui, who studied French and Chinese while earning her degree. She has gathered into her arsenal of instructors natives of Bolivia and Columbia that have been working with children to immerse them in the Spanish Language.

"We hire loving, child-centered instructors who use rapid intervals of song, movement, and games to teach," Shui said. "Our older students (K-6)

will have an opportunity to showcase their Spanish levels in The Purple School's 4th Annual Spanish Language Bee in May."

Dialogue began between Shui and Alphabet Academy owner Joscelyn Lynch shortly after the daycare gained approval to operate last October. Shui inquired whether offering language instruction would be an area of interest to offer.



Melissa Krause • Williston Herald

Bolivia native, Sharon Lyseng, has been integrating the children at the Alphabet Academy with Spanish language.

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Melissa Krause • Williston Herald

Sharon Lyseng has been integrating the children at the Alphabet Academy with Spanish language lessons.

PURPLE: Parents enjoy that their kids learn something different

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Once the details were hashed out, classes began in January. It was an opportunity Lynch said her clients have been excited about.

“(Parents) like that their kids are offered something different,” Lynch said. “Diversity adds to our center.”

Within the facility, Bolivia-native Sharon Lyseng, was in the middle of

class that children that ranged from 18 months to 5-years-old. The children were quickly adapting to Spanish and instead of reciting “duck-duck-geese” they announced “pato-pato-ganso” before chase ensued from their classmates.

Twice a week children are Lyseng engages the children with games, singing, and reading in Spanish

which she said the children have the ability to absorb effortlessly.

“When kids hear more Spanish, singing, playing — they learn fast,” Lyseng said. “Their mind is like a sponge.”

The early months of the partnership have proven beneficial and a product Lynch said she looks to continue for quite a while.