



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EKBLAD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
OFFERS THE PURPLE SCHOOL™ SPANISH TO
TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS**

May 10, 2013 (Williston, ND). The Ekblad Development Center and The Purple School have teamed together to offer The Purple School™ Spanish classes to toddlers and preschoolers enrolled at Ekblad Development Center beginning this month.

Staci Ekblad, owner of Ekblad Development Center, said, "As specialists in early childhood education, we know how introducing a second language to kids at this age is a lifelong gift to them. Spanish is an especially great language to learn in our country. We chose The Purple School because of its 12-year history of teaching kids second languages. One of my children has been taking Purple School Spanish classes. I love how excited she is about learning another language and am impressed with how much she has learned."

Joyce Nadolny Shui of The Purple School said, "We are excited to be partnering with Ekblad Development Center to offer Spanish. Ekblad Development Center is the first local daycare to adopt our program. Their decision to offer Purple School Spanish classes reflects their wonderful commitment to early childhood language and also provides a first-time Spanish learning option to children of this age whose parents both work. "

Ekblad Development Center (EDC) was established in 2008 by Staci Ekblad, who has a bachelor's degree in education in addition to a master's degree in counseling. EDC is dedicated to forming a partnership with parents to meet the needs of each individual child at each stage of development in a warm, affirming, and caring atmosphere. EDC offers a learning environment that affords children the opportunity to explore, discover, and enjoy the learning process while engaging in creative, integrated, hands-on learning activities that encompass the needs of the whole child.

The Purple School was founded in 2001 by Nadolny Shui. Nadolny Shui studied French and Chinese while earning her bachelor's degree at Harvard University and speaks some Japanese,

Cantonese, and Spanish as well. She says, "The Purple School language curriculum is based on my language learning experiences and my experiences raising four bilingual children. Our curriculum, *The Purple School 31*, is very structured and is tailored to kids. We hire loving, child-centered instructors who use rapid intervals of song, movement, and games to teach. Our older students (K-6) will have an opportunity to showcase their Spanish levels in The Purple School Spanish Language Bee later this month."

The Purple School Spanish Language Bee will be held on Thursday, May 16, at St. Joseph's School in Williston. Area children learning Spanish as a second language will have the opportunity to showcase their Spanish language learning and compete for scholarship money. Top prize is \$100, second prize is \$50, and third prize is \$25. Entrance fee is \$15 per child. Local businesses American State Bank & Trust and Walmart have donated prize money to this year's Purple School Spanish Language Bee.