



AMIGOS:

A bilingual language and cultural story-time for preschoolers and their families; building bridges through literacy; embracing the diversity of our Island.

Project Description:

The Amigos Program is a bilingual language and cultural story-time for preschoolers and their families. The purpose of this project is to build cultural bridges and teach early literacy through books with English and Brazilian Portuguese speaking Island preschoolers and their families as well as provide leadership/teaching opportunities for high school students.

The method we will use is “teaching through books:” an effective tool for readers/listeners to absorb influential messages about themselves and others.

To achieve this, the Edgartown Library is planning a bilingual Brazilian Portuguese story time as a family program offering for 20 children and their families. Children will be involved in an eight-week pajama story hour, community supper program designed to promote multicultural literacy and build cross-cultural relationships.

There will be stories and songs in two languages, ethnic dances, a craft which reinforces the language of the story time and theme of the stories read, and a rotating ethnic supper.

The program will include paid high school student mentors- native English and Brazilian Portuguese speakers as storytellers for ages up to six and their families. The Edgartown library staff and an English language learning consultant will work with the high school mentors to prepare for story hours.

Details:

We are seeking 6 qualified students, 3 who are native English speaking, and 3 who are native Brazilian Portuguese speaking. High school students currently in grades 9-11 are invited to apply for the paid storyteller mentor positions by completing the attached application. Applications are available in the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Guidance Office and the Edgartown Public Library. Applications will be reviewed and finalists will be invited to an in-person interview. There will be an orientation for student mentors that will include learning the basics of dramatic storytelling and teaching social justice through cultural stories. This is a paid position.

Required Dates:

Application Deadline: May 30, 2014. Please scan and email completed applications and recommendation forms to director@edgartownlibrary.org or mail: Edgartown Public Library, PO Box 5249, Edgartown, MA 02539. In person applications will also be received at the Library and Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Guidance Office.

- Interviews will be held the *second week in June*.
- Orientation #1- *Friday, June 27, 2014. 12-3pm* (early dismissal day from school)
- Summer Reading Kick-Off: *July 5, 2015, 10am-1pm*. Staff/volunteers arrive at 10am and stay to help clean-up. Help with face-painting and marketing summer reading programs at Island libraries and the Amigos project.
- Orientation #2- *Thursday, September 4, 2014, 4-7pm*
- 8 Week Bilingual Story-time & Cultural Supper Program- *Wednesdays- 5:30-7:30 tentative time, October and November 2014*- Must be available to attend at least 4 weeks of 8 week session.



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High School Student Mentor Applications

Name:

Street Address & Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone:

Age/Grade (current year):

Please answer the following questions (typed) on a separate page:

1. Do you speak and read Brazilian Portuguese fluently? (Yes/No). If yes, please explain your experience.
2. Why are you interested in being part of the Amigos story-time at the Edgartown Public Library? (Please read the description of the Amigos bilingual story-time in detail)
3. How does embracing cultural diversity improve a community?



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Recommendation Form

Name of Student:

Current Grade:

Name of Teacher/Guidance Counselor

Completing This Recommendation Form: _____

- How long have you known this student and in what context?

- What are the first words that come to your mind to describe this student?

Compared to other students, in his or her class year, how do you rate this student in terms of:

No Basis		Below Average	Average	Good	Very Good (well above average)	Excellent (top 10%)	Outstanding (top 5%)	One of the top few I've encountered (top 1%)
	Creative, original thought							
	Productive class discussion							
	Respect accorded by faculty							
	Disciplined work habits							
	Maturity							
	Motivation							
	Leadership							
	Integrity							
	Concern for others							
	Self-confidence							
	Initiative, independence							
	OVERALL							

Additional Comments:

We welcome information that will help us to differentiate this student from others. (Feel free to attach an additional sheet or another reference you may have prepared on behalf of this student.)