



Empowering Students to Explore  
the World Through Language.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

Justyn Makarewycz  
(415) 786-7757

justyn@globallanguageproject.org

---

## **Global Language Project students in Harlem begin pen-pal exchange with school in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

*After-school Spanish Program leverages multimedia and classic pen-paling  
to practice language and gain appreciation of different cultures*

**October 15, 2009 (New York, NY)** – Global Language Project (GLP) announced today that the class of its after-school Spanish program at P.S. 368 Hamilton Heights School in Harlem has started a multimedia and pen-pal exchange with a class at the Stella Maris School of English in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The exchange begins today with each class viewing a video from the other class, and kicks off a multi-year exchange of language, culture and friendship.

“GLP’s mission is not only to give students a chance to learn a language other than English, but to also expose them to the cultural diversity this world has to offer,” said Angela Jackson, founder of GLP. “This exchange will introduce our students to children their age who live in another country and culture, and through it, develop understanding and friendship with each other.”

The multi-year exchange will consist of online-video communication, classic pen-pal letters, photo exchanges and a book project. Throughout the exchange, the class of the GLP after-school Spanish program in Harlem will speak and communicate in Spanish, and the Stella Maris School in Buenos Aires will communicate in English. After viewing today’s first video, each student from each class will be paired with a student from the other class in a personal introduction, and partnered for the remainder of the year as pen pals.

In addition to videos and letters, each class will also work on a book project called the “traveling diary.” A stuffed-animal character will “travel” home with each student throughout the year. In a diary, the students will write the character’s experiences at each student’s home, noting particular cultural topic in their own country, such as music, recipes, TV shows or famous authors. At the end of the year, the pages of the diary will be assembled into a book and exchanged to each class as another way to share cultural differences in the US and Argentina.

“When public elementary schools cannot afford to offer courses in foreign languages and world cultures to their students, the effects ripple worldwide,” said Ms. Jackson. “We cannot expect public elementary schoolchildren to become world leaders when they

cannot speak another language or do not have the chance to learn about other cultures. GLP wants to change that.”

GLP’s After-school Program is a free, six-year, after-school language program for students attending underserved elementary public schools that cannot afford to offer language classes. GLP launched its inaugural Program this fall at P.S. 368 Hamilton Heights School in Harlem, teaching Mandarin and Spanish to 24 of the school’s third graders. By helping underserved students develop skills in languages other than English, GLP is empowering them with skills that will increase their future opportunities in higher education and the multilingual global marketplace.

Because GLP offers its Program to underserved elementary public schools, it is free to attending students. In New York State specifically, most public elementary schools do not or cannot afford to provide courses in languages other than English. The Program is funded entirely by corporate and private donations.

Corporate and individual donors are able to make donations to the GLP, including supporting the cost of a student’s entire year of language learning, or providing the cost of a language teacher for one year or more. More information is available at [www.globallanguageproject.org](http://www.globallanguageproject.org).

### **About the Global Language Project**

“Empowering Students To Explore the World Through Language” Global Language Project (GLP) is a nonprofit organization, and innovative educational movement. GLP equips disadvantaged elementary public school students in New York City to compete in a globalized world and workforce by providing a comprehensive language-training program aimed at helping underserved students achieve fluency in a foreign language.

For more information about the GLP, please call (646) 657-8075, or visit [www.globallanguageproject.org](http://www.globallanguageproject.org).

###