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The World is Your Classroom

Teacher Talk: Fostering Mentoring Relationships Between Teachers

Heather Gaddis

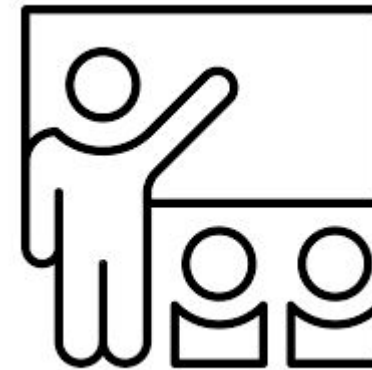
English Language Fellow at VDU Academy of Education



BALTICS EARLY CAREER TEACHER RETREAT



April 21st-23rd, 2023
American Space
Riga, LV



22 pre-service teachers
3+3 English Language Fellows
& Mentor Teachers



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BALTICS EARLY CAREER TEACHER RETREAT

Objectives

- To create a sustainable professional learning community that supports and elevates the voices of early career educators in the Baltic States
- To model and promote tolerant, multicultural, and multilingual teaching practices
- To create mentoring relationships between experienced and early career teachers that encourage involvement in professional teacher associations and conferences throughout the region



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Teaching for Tolerance: A Safe Learning Space

<p>A SAFE LEARNING SPACE...</p> <p>for dream team Erik, Greta & Cruise</p>	<p>... SAYS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * GREETINGS (HELLO, SORRY, BYE, THANK YOU, PLEASE) * ENCOURAGING WORDS. (YOU CAN DO THIS, DON'T WORRY, DOING GREAT, TRY ONE MORE TIME) * ASK FOR HELP * MISTAKES DON'T MATTER. (I JUST DON'T SPEAK)
<p>... BELIEVES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * EVERYONE IS EQUAL. * SELF-CONFIDENCE. * NO STUPID QUESTIONS. * RESPECT PERSONAL SPACE. 	<p>... ACTIONS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * LISTENING WITHOUT INTERRUPTING * TREATING EVERYONE EQUALLY. * DOES FAIR WORKS. * TAKING CARE.

A safe learning space

SAYS:

- o words of support
- o It's okay to make mistakes
- o words of appreciation

DOES:

- not judge/bully
- accept everyone
- spread love

BELIEVES:

- in equality
- in success
- in safe space

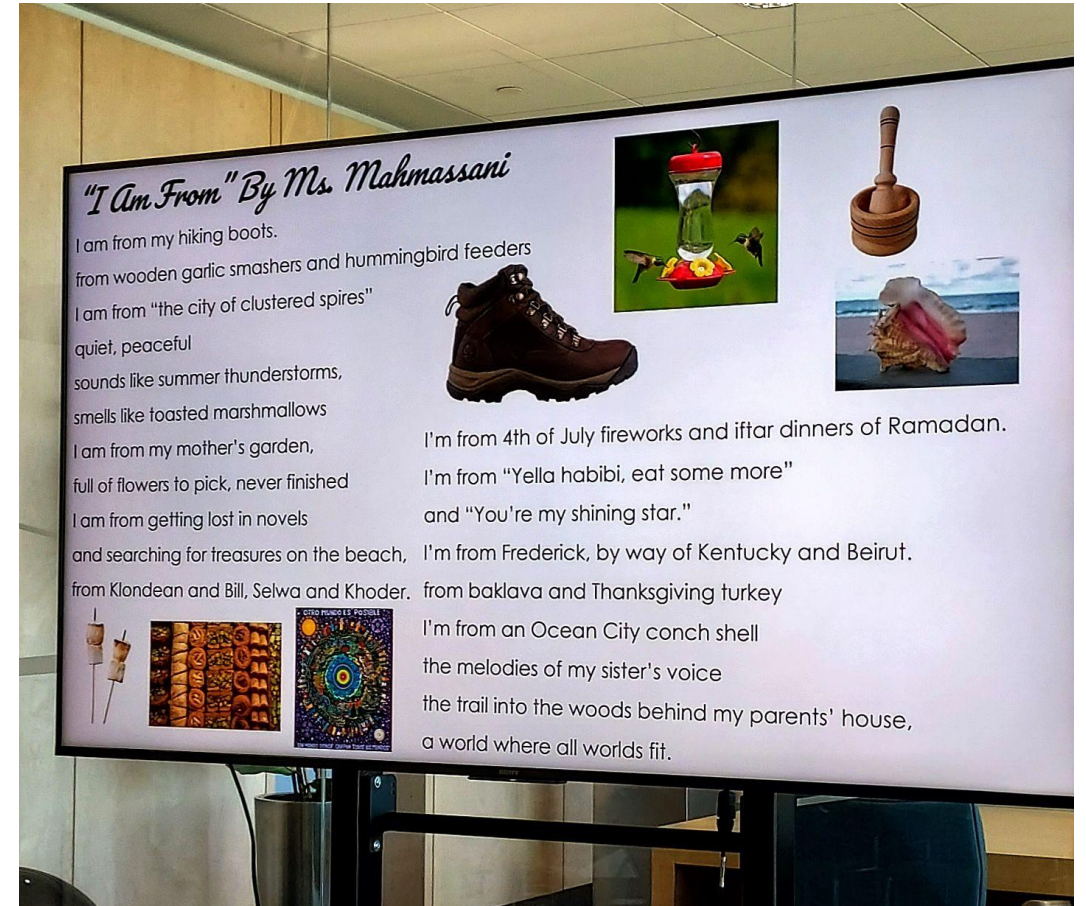


PLEASE CREATE AND COMPLETE...

<p>A safe learning space...</p>	<p>says... <i>(words)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">●●●
<p>believes.. <i>(values)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">●●●	<p>does... <i>(actions)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">●●●



Teaching for Tolerance: I am from



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Mentor Talk: Mental Health



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Mentor Led: World Cafe Discussion



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Topic #1: Communicating with parents & Work/Life Balance

- What are the biggest challenges when communicating with parents?
- How can you set boundaries when it comes to communicating with parents?
- How can you prevent burnout in your first years as a teacher?
- How do you manage university life and work life?





Topic #2: Lesson Planning & Classroom Management

- What are some strategies for working with students from different backgrounds and students who are dealing with trauma?
- What kinds of activities or methods work with different ages of students?
- How can I be more efficient when it comes to lesson planning?
- What are strategies for differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners?
- How can you get respect from students without being seen as strict?





Topic #3: Collaborating with other teachers

- How can we build positive relationships with colleagues?
- What are strategies for communicating with experienced colleagues?
- What are ways we can learn about the teaching community outside of our schools?





Topic #4: Creating relationships with students

- What are strategies we can use to motivate students?
- How can we foster a positive classroom environment?
- How can we reduce or prevent bullying?
- How can we feel self confident in the classroom?



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Plurilingual Learning Environments



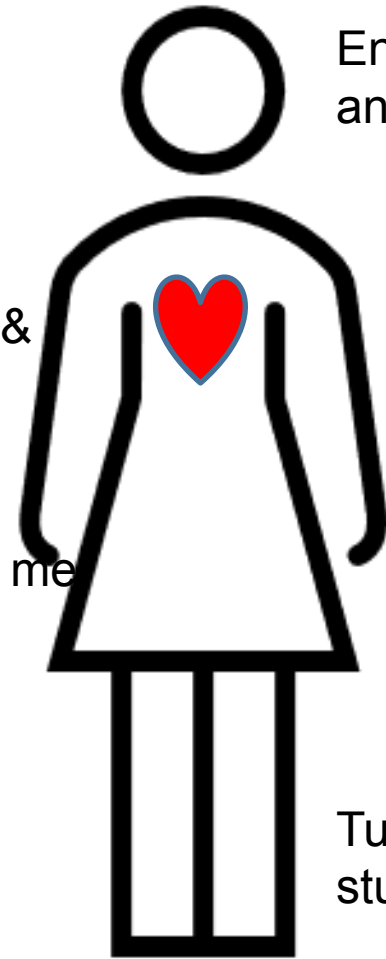
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Plurilingual Identity Portrait



English- the language I think in most often and use professionally/academically

Te amo

Spanish- the language I speak a mi esposo & that has been my everyday language for the last decade

Lithuanian- the language swirling around me every day & that I am trying to hold on to

rendezvous

imperfect

Viskas gerai

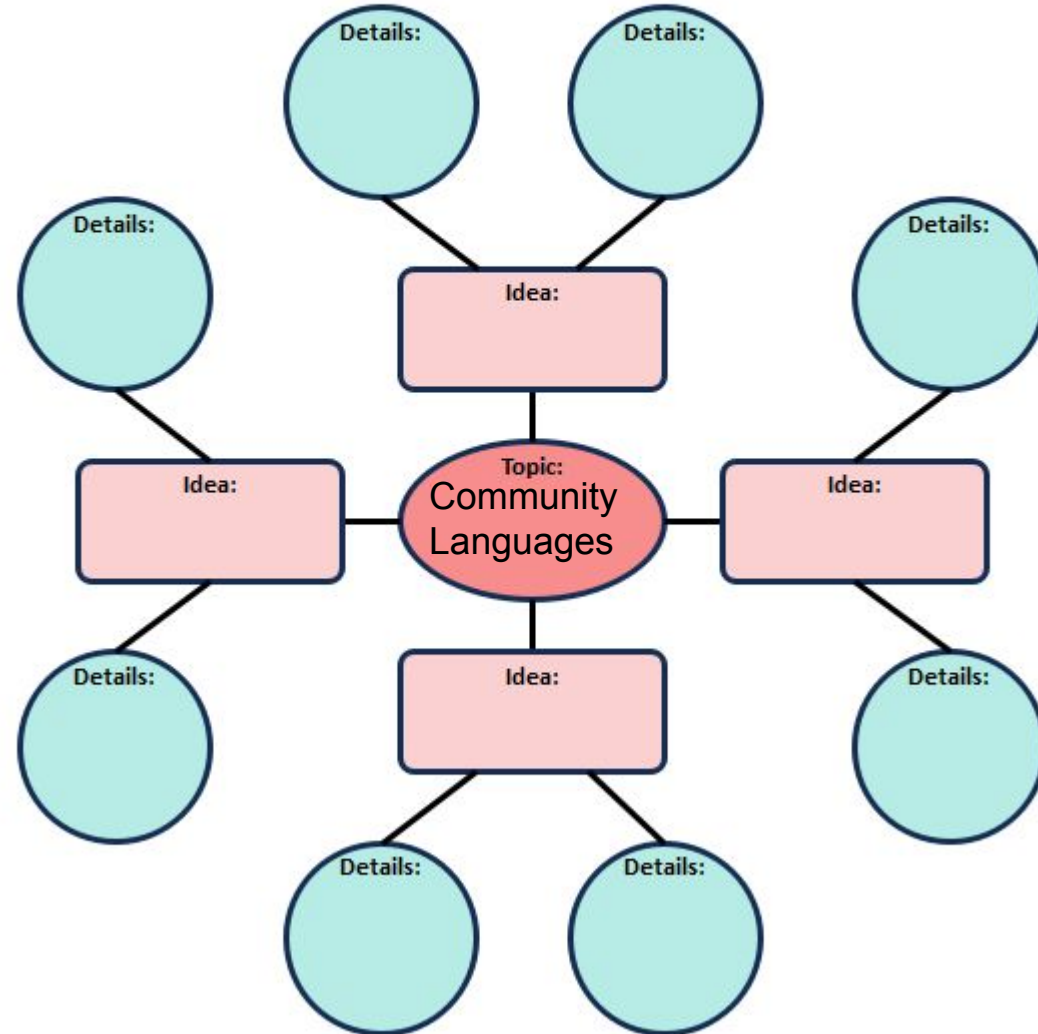
Yok, Var

Turkish, Russian, French- Languages I have studied but don't remember well anymore





Community Languages



- What languages are used in your country or region?
- Who speaks which languages to whom?
- Where are you likely to hear one language or another?
- What media do you watch or listen to in which the languages you understand are used?





Which activity or strategy are you most likely to use in your classroom?

Being real and building connection with students

Spread safety and take care of my students. I believe these two points have power with that we can improve learning process and influence student's life.

"I'm from ..." activity to provide students the opportunity to acknowledge, rethink and deepen into their on "I", to build more tolerant community and relationships between students; as an ice-breaker and an introduction activity.
World café activity - team work enabling to share thoughts/ideas

A safe place poster - it is very important that students feel safe, otherwise the learning won't happen.

Do you have any suggestions for future events like this one?

It would be great if the retreat was longer than 1 day. It would be easier to focus and talk longer about specific topics.

To divide the activities like workshops and discussions to 2 days interval (the end was a little tiring).

Despite this event being fulfilling and informative, I could really use a bit more time even if it comes with a small or mediocre entering fee. This event had some tight time frames and technically lasted only a day. However it was still a lot of fun.



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www.elprograms.org

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