

## **Dual Language Immersion Day**

On Friday May 13, 2022 Modern and Classical Languages hosted its annual *Dual Language Immersion Day*. DLI Day is a part of the Dual Language Immersion Program, which is aimed at immersing elementary school children in the Spanish Language. DLI Day is a collaboration between Albany County School District 1, the UW College of Arts and Sciences, and the UW Department of Modern and Classical Languages.

The event ran all morning from 8:30am – 11:30am, as 192 students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the festivities. Overall three Laramie elementary schools were represented; Slade Elementary School, Spring Creek Elementary School, and Indian Paintbrush Elementary School. Also participating in the event were 12 DLI teachers, 3 art teachers from the participating elementary schools, along with 50 volunteers comprised of UW students and parents.

The morning began with a welcome from Chelsea Escalante, a Spanish instructor with UW, who engaged with the students through call and response activities. This helped gauge and reinforce students' Spanish speaking and listening skills. Shortly after, students participated in activity stations which included a mask art project and a one-word image activity. Following the activity stations, students' parents arrived for the gallery walk of art and writing projects, which not only showcased students' artistic abilities but their Spanish speaking and writing comprehension as well.

Soon after the gallery walk there were cultural performances along with other live performances. Chelsea Escalante shared an edited video highlighting DLI students and teachers before presenting thank you letters from several 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The event concluded with closing remarks from Modern and Classical Languages' Department Head Joy Landeira and from Chelsea Escalante.

DLI Day was a fun and interactive day for DLI students from across the Albany County School District to celebrate what they have learned in their Spanish speaking curriculums. It was an event which also showcased students' artistic, linguistic, and communication skills. The event was also a chance for students to learn while interacting in a fun and engaging environment outside the classroom.

The event is funded by the Arts & Sciences In-Reach Grant, which helps the DLI Program achieve one of its biggest goals: fostering Spanish language development through community events. DLI Day strives to leave its mark on young students in hopes of allowing these students to develop into bilingual speakers which not only enhances interactions in the students' daily lives but also helps bring diversity to the State of Wyoming; an ever continuing goal of both the Modern and Classical Languages Department and the University of Wyoming.

