

# Language Acquisition Mini-Network 2007-2008

Our mission is to share our expertise and knowledge in order to advocate for strong language programs for children in Alaska.

## Who are we :

We are an emerging network of educators that is discovering our purpose and identifying the resources that lay within us. We are interested in issues dealing with the role that schools and communities can play in teaching language.

## Our strategy:

Our group has experimented with a variety of approaches, including a face to face dinner meeting. We have also tried voice thread, blogging and online conferencing.



***A different language is  
a different vision of life.***

*- Federico Fellini .*



## Our learnings:

Identifying our purpose has been more difficult than we predicted.

The work has to be of value to busy educators; the learning has to be reciprocal.

It is important to find ways to build trust with people you don't see and may not know.

Clear goals are necessary, but must remain flexible.

## Our Questions:

How do we garner understanding and support for language programs, from heritage language acquisition to second language learning?

What is the role of community?

How can we tap community strengths?

What are the ways teachers and community members can live their language and celebrate the gifts that language brings?

How can this network support and become meaningful for educators?

What is our emphasis? Is the goal more effective language teaching methodology, better understanding of and ability to address the social and political nature of language learning, or revitalizing the language...or all of the above?

*Poster submitted by Nancy Boxler & Jim Powell*

