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This newsletter is brought to you by  
Maris Hawkins and Stacey  
Margarita Johnson

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# MIDWEEK NEWS

WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT  
WTL PODCAST EPISODE TO COME OUT...



## Preview of the Next Episode

EPISODE 97: INDEPENDENCE, CHOICE, PEACE, AND  
MONTESSORI WITH VALERIE SHULL

Most teachers don't have many opportunities to visit other classrooms, not even in our own schools let alone to visit diverse kinds of institutions to see what we can learn from them. Within higher ed, have you seen what language teaching looks like at a community college or in a fully online university? At the K-12 level, have you ever visited a Waldorf school? What do you know about an early college high school or an immersion elementary school?

This week's episode opens a small window onto one particular context. Valerie Shull shares about her work with 4th-8th grades at a Montessori school. We learn about the core principles of the Montessori model, the ways Valerie ensures choice and independence for her students, and a few ideas from the Montessori model that might prove useful in any language classroom.



## RESPONSE TO EPISODE 96: LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH DIGITAL GAMES WITH JONATHON REINHARDT

This response was written by Meghan McGinley, who conducted the interview and submitted it to the podcast. You can find Meghan on Twitter @MeghanKMcGinley

Second Language Acquisition (SLA) houses a wide-range of multi-disciplinary voices, the field historically benefiting from advances in psychology, sociology, education and linguistics. To this list, we can also add the domain of play and game studies. In fact, some researchers view the dichotomy between task-based language teaching and explicit instruction to be false, advocating for a classroom environment where manipulation of form through play bridges the gap between the two approaches (Cook, 1997). Coupled with technology, play enters into the domain of Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL). Furthermore, digital game-mediated foreign language teaching and learning (L2TL) aligns with task-based approaches, informing ideas on goal-orientation, social interaction, feedback, contextualization and student-player motivation. through play bridges the gap between the two approaches (Cook 1997). With an eye to the future of the field of SLA as a whole (Sykes and Reinhardt 2013). A burgeoning field with lots of room for research and development, digital game-mediated L2TL has the potential to unravel the opposition between “work” and play in the L2 classroom.

References

Cook, G. (1997). Language play, language learning. *ELT Journal*, Volume 51, Issue 3, 224–231. <https://doi.org/10.1093/elt/51.3.224>.

Sykes, J. M., & Reinhardt, J. (2013). *Language at play: Digital games in second and foreign language teaching and learning*. Boston: Pearson.

## Contribute to Episode 100!

We are gearing up for our one hundredth episode in a few weeks! We would love for people to tell us how *We Teach Languages* has been useful or reflect on how any episodes in particular have been meaningful. You can reach out to us via Twitter, Facebook, or reply to the weekly email. We can't wait to hear from you!



## Reactions to past episodes:

 **Pamela Russell**  
@pammycakes\_87 Follow

This was a great episode reinforcing why joining @NYSAFLT & @LECN1 shouldn't be an option. These professional orgs are important. They should be a priority in your professional career. #langchat #fortheloveoflanguages #weteachlang

 **Jennifer Reschly**  
@FreshResch13 Following

We teach languages and inspired proficiency are podcast recommendations from @lovemysummer #SCOLT19

3:26 PM - 22 Mar 2019

## Updates from Past Contributors



Ying Jin (episode 80) celebrated International Women's Day with 20 female WL educators! They were meeting to participate in the California WL Curriculum Framework and Curriculum committee.



Caleb Howard (episodes 19, 20, 24) recently recorded a video for NECTFL. In this video, he explains one tip for all teachers to increase target language use in the classroom. Click this box to watch the full video.