

LA NOSTRA COMUNITA', LA NOSTRA LINGUA: IL RUOLO DEGLI ITALIANI D'AMERICA

Quest'anno ha consacrato ottobre come "Italian Heritage Month" negli USA. A Washington, Camera e Senato hanno già in agenda la proposta, grazie a un'iniziativa della comunità italo-americana sostenuta dall'Ambasciata. Il Presidente Obama, nel chiedersi "cosa sarebbe l'America senza i contributi dell'Italia e degli italo-americani", si è detto onorato di celebrare l'Italian American Heritage Month insieme ai 150 anni dell'unificazione dell'Italia.

Sono attestazioni di amicizia straordinarie perché vengono dalle più alte Istituzioni e perché si accompagnano alla partecipazione popolare senza precedenti che in tutti gli Stati Uniti ha caratterizzato le iniziative di queste settimane. È ancora forte il ricordo delle decine di migliaia di persone sulla Quinta Strada a New York per il Columbus Day. E analoghi sentimenti di orgoglio e soddisfazione mi sono stati riportati dai nostri Consoli che in questi mesi hanno organizzato gli oltre 130 eventi di Italy@150 <mailto:Italy@150> .

È a questo orgoglio italiano che faccio appello nel chiedere alla comunità italo-americana negli USA di sostenere ancora una volta l'azione del Governo italiano per diffondere l'insegnamento della nostra lingua nelle scuole americane a un anno dall'accordo che, grazie al vostro contributo, ha riportato l'italiano nel programma Advanced Placement.

Abbiamo creato le premesse facendo del 2011 un anno tutto italiano negli USA, segnato da passaggi altamente significativi, come il proclama del Presidente Obama per il "compleanno dell'Italia" il 17 marzo e la visita a New York del Presidente Napolitano. Abbiamo nuovi strumenti per portare l'italiano più vicino ai giovani, e giovanissimi, americani anche attraverso i social network: da qualche mese è attivo il sito www.usspeaksitalian.org un foro di discussione creato dall'Osservatorio sulla Lingua Italiana per studenti, famiglie e insegnanti; abbiamo lanciato il portale Italy4Kids <<http://sedi2.esteri.it/sitiweb/AmbWashington/italy4kids/>> per far conoscere di più l'Italia, la sua lingua e la sua cultura anche ai più piccoli.

Adesso abbiamo bisogno di voi: parlate, incontrate, spiegate le opportunità che l'italiano offre agli studenti; chiedete a presidi, insegnanti, genitori delle vostre scuole di conoscere l'AP Italian e i suoi vantaggi, utilizzando informazioni e contatti contenuti nella brochure preparata per l'avvio dei corsi a settembre.

Parliamo italiano e parliamo dell'italiano.

Giulio Terzi
Ambasciatore d'Italia a Washington

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR LANGUAGE: WHAT ITALIAN AMERICANS CAN DO

This year has turned October into the Italian Heritage Month in the United States. In Washington, the House and the Senate have submitted a resolution to this effect in response to an initiative put forward by the Italian-American community with the support of the Embassy. President Obama, in asking "what would America be without the contributions of Italy and Italian Americans," said he was proud to celebrate Italian American Heritage Month as well as the 150th anniversary of Italy's unification.

They are affirmations of an extraordinary friendship. They come from the highest of authorities and match the unprecedented public participation throughout the United States in the events of recent weeks. I still have vivid memory of the tens of thousands of people along 5th Avenue in New York on Columbus Day. I received reports of similar manifestations of pride and satisfaction from our Consuls that organized over 130 events for Italy@150
<<http://www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/150>> .

I am calling on this very Italian pride when I ask the Italian-American community in the United States to once again support the Italian government's efforts to disseminate the teaching of our language in American schools one year after we signed the agreement which, thanks to your contribution, reinstated Italian in the Advanced Placement program.

We set the scene by making 2011 an all Italian year in the United States marked by very significant moments such as President Obama's proclamation for "Italy's birthday" on March 17 and President Napolitano's visit to New York. We have new tools to bring Italian closer to young Americans also through social networks: the website www.usspeaksitalian.org, a forum for discussion created by the Osservatorio sulla Lingua Italiana for students, families, and teachers has been active for several months now; we launched a portal, Italy4Kids
<<http://sedi2.esteri.it/sitiweb/AmbWashington/italy4kids/>> , so that children and young people can learn more about Italy, its language, and its culture.

Now we need you: get together, talk, discuss the opportunities that learning Italian offers; tell your school's principals, teachers, and parents to learn more about Advanced Placement Program (AP) Italian and its advantages, using the information and the contacts in the brochure that has been prepared for the introduction of courses in September.

Let's speak Italian and let's talk about it.

Giulio Terzi
Ambassador of Italy to Washington

Re-introduction of the AP Italian Language and Culture course and exam was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the Government of the Republic of Italy, Italian-American Organizations and individuals and Italian Companies:

National Italian American Foundation (NIAF)

Columbus Citizen Foundation

ENI

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC)

Frank Guarini

FIAT

Luxottica

Unicredit

Finmeccanica

Order Sons of Italy in America

American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit

*Italian Language Foundation

American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI)

UNICO

Berardo Paradiso

National Organization of Italian American Women

Italian Welfare League

COPILAS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call the Education Office of the Italian Consulate serving the State in which you reside, or visit the Italian Embassy website www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it for a list of organizations offering Italian classes.

For information on Consular Education Offices and Organizations:
http://www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/Ambasciata_Washington/Menu/Informazioni_e_servizi/Promozione_lingua_cultura_italiana/ATTIVITA_LIVELLO_FEDERALE.htm

The Italian Consulates are eager to support all educational programs that promote Italian and the AP Italian Language and Culture course.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE AP PROGRAM

College Board: www.collegeboard.org

ENJOY YOUR ITALIAN!

"The conventional wisdom was that bilingualism was a disadvantage.
Thanks to science, we now know that the opposite is true."

The New York Times

May 31, 2011

usspeaksitalian

The Advanced Placement® Italian Language and Culture Course will be offered again!

ARE YOU READY?

Beginning fall 2011, students can enroll in an AP® Italian Language and Culture course and take the AP Italian Exam in May 2012.

WWW.USSPEAKSITALIAN.ORG

ITALIAN, AN AMERICAN PASSION!

Italian language and culture courses continue to grow in schools throughout the United States. Every year tens of thousands of students of all ages and backgrounds choose to study Italian.

Why?

Because this language and culture has so enriched the world with its...

/art /music /fashion /food /literary masterpieces /outstanding scientists



- Italy is a founding member of the EU, the G8 and the G20
- Italy is a key ally to the U.S.; it harbors one of the highest number of Nato and U.S. bases in the world
- Italy is the first non English speaking country destination for American students

STUDYING ITALIAN IS MEANINGFUL, USEFUL, TASTEFUL, HELPFUL... WONDERFUL!

Spread the word about the upcoming AP course and exam and promote the teaching of Italian and AP Italian in schools in your community!



PARENTS

Speak to your children about selecting Italian as their foreign language of choice and encourage schools in your community to offer courses in Italian studies given its rich historical culture.

Encourage your children to study Italian in school. As spoken and understood, Italian is widely considered the oldest national language in Europe. It has always been and continues to be a door toward European culture.

Remember:

AP Italian allows a high school student to demonstrate the mastery of a rigorous course, and earn college credit or advanced placement in college.

College credits earned through successful scores on the AP Italian Exam can provide students with the opportunity to enroll in an upper-level college course in Italian or the time to study abroad in Italy.

Studying Italian is useful both in acquiring a new language and in enhancing their curriculum vitae, or resumé, for college.

AP Italian will allow you to save money! If your child earns a high score on the AP Exam, he or she could receive credit for the equivalent course in college, saving you the cost of the course.

TEACHERS

Enrich and challenge yourselves professionally. By welcoming the AP Italian Language and Culture course into your school, you can teach at an even higher level. Speak to your department chairperson and your principal and together you can organize and develop an AP Italian course for your district and school.

STUDENTS

Speak to your principal about adding Italian: Italian language education will enhance a student's understanding and appreciation of the vast contributions of Italians and Italian-Americans to American history, government, philosophy, art, architecture, science, medicine, and much more.

The College Board's AP Italian Language and Culture program can help you to earn college credit and advanced placement in college. AP is accepted by most two and four-year colleges and universities worldwide for college credit, advanced placement or both on the basis of successful exam scores. This includes colleges and universities in more than 60 countries around the world.

AP Italian will allow you to demonstrate to college admissions officers that you have the study skills and dedication to succeed in college.

If you are a senior this fall and are enrolled in an advanced Italian course, please contact your principal and your Italian teacher and ask them to offer the AP Italian course in its place.

If you are a native Italian speaker and wish to take the AP Italian Language and Culture Exam, please contact the Education Office of the Italian Consulate in your school district for information.

There are several Italian-American organizations that offer scholarships or travel to Italy for students of Italian. Some of them* are offering prizes to those AP Italian students who score a 4 or 5 on their AP Exam.

Why take the AP Italian Exam?



FOR THREE REASONS:

1. to save time and money
2. to show colleges that you are already investing on a global cultural model for your future
3. to strengthen your transcript

Thanks to AP courses you have the opportunity, by the time you graduate from high school, to earn many college credits accepted by most universities in the United States and around the world. In this way you can save time and money!

Your transcript speaks for itself. When admissions officers see that you have successfully completed AP courses, they know that you will have a smooth transition to college level courses.