



International School of Brooklyn

Brooklyn's First French and Spanish Language-Intensive Preschool Opens Doors on September 8

*After-School Language Immersion Programs Available up to 3rd Grade;
Open House on September 6 for Community and Parents*

Brooklyn, NY – September 1, 2005 – International School of Brooklyn (ISB), will open its doors on Thursday, September 8, 2005. Sixteen children are enrolled in ISB, Brooklyn's first French and Spanish immersion preschool. Additionally, ISB will offer **After-School French and Spanish Immersion Program** open to students (up to 3rd grade) enrolled at ISB and those who attend other schools.

Accredited by the New York State Department of Education and located in Park Slope, Brooklyn, ISB offers a rigorous bilingual and multicultural academic program that gives parents a choice of two language options – French and Spanish. With ISB's progressive immersion program, students will easily acquire an understanding and appreciation of a second language and culture.

ISB expects to double in size as it plans to include Kindergarten in 2006. The school will continue to grow a grade each year into and through the elementary years. ISB also offers a toddler/caregiver immersion program (**ISB Language Immersion Playgroups**), which drew 88 students alone in the spring 2005 session.

"We are thrilled at the opening of the school after just two years of extensive planning and coordination," said ISB co-founder, Rebecca Skinner. "We'd like to thank the community, parents and teachers for their help and support along the way as we strove to open a local school that provided language-immersion education at an early age."

ISB has drawn the interest of Brooklyn families who are bilingual in French or Spanish, as well as English-only families who want to provide another dimension to their child's early education. Numerous early childhood education studies have shown that children absorb languages easily at a young age.

"There is this limited window when a child can absorb languages "naturally," said Eymund Diegel, father of 3-year old Amara, who will be attending ISB's French track. "I'm willing to walk the extra 30 minutes to ISB in Park Slope to take advantage of that window for my daughter." (Amara was also enrolled in ISB's Language Immersion Playgroups for children 18 months to 3 years old.)

ISB parent, Nicola Fabens, whose son Peter will be attending ISB's Spanish track, said, "Being able to speak Spanish has given my son not just openness to others and other means of communicating his ideas, but also a real sense of pride. In ISB, we found a school that we believed would provide him with a caring, fun way of exploring all that knowing another language, and another way of viewing the world can offer."

Open House – 7-9pm, Tuesday, September 6, 2005

ISB will host an open-house on Tuesday, September 6 from 7 to 9pm for prospective and enrolled families as well as community neighbors interested in touring the school and learning more about ISB.

About The International School of Brooklyn

The International School of Brooklyn (ISB) is an independent, non-sectarian, non-profit educational institution where students are taught in a caring, loving and challenging environment in order to become bilingual in French and Spanish at an early age.

Located in 298 6th Avenue, Park Slope, Brooklyn, ISB offers Nursery and pre-Kindergarten classes in two tracks - French and Spanish. Kindergarten will be added in September 2006. ISB intends to serve the local and international community of Brooklyn and New York City.

ISB was co-founded by two bilingual mothers and educators, Dr. Habiba Boumlik and Rebecca Skinner.

More information on the International School of Brooklyn, after-school programs and toddler/caregiver Language Immersion Playgroups can be found on its website:
www.isbrooklyn.org.

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Contact:

Rebecca Skinner, Co-founder

Phone: 646.245.8801

Email: info@isbrooklyn.org