

Thank you for such a nice opportunity to introduce our school "Kolibri". The name means hummingbird and that name was chosen for a reason. Hummingbird is a small, but very beautiful and hardworking bird similar to our children students. They work hard to learn the second language and what's important is that with a lot of effort they succeed, which is incredible and inspiring to many people.

Our school has 45 students, 4 teachers, several volunteers and amazing supportive parents.

Our classes are taught on Saturdays and Tuesdays. School operating from 8.30-3.30(7 hours )on Saturdays offering students opportunities to choose programs that help develop their language skills.

On Tuesday we offer 2 hours in the evening.

Taking into consideration that bilingual children don't have enough of their second language environment, we have created the programs that allows children to develop their language nonetheless.

Our program includes such classic major subjects as reading, writing and speech development classes.

In addition we also have some other successful projects: drama, music , book club , conversation club , library.

This year we are very thankful for the grant support. It was a very efficient addition to our school supplies. We bought books for children in Russian language . And it was included in our school library so children can choose and read different books.

We didn't have any technology support and with this money we bought a computer for school and we can use for lessons to present educational videos or materials.

We bought as well printer and that's amazing how this is open our opportunities to print materials right in school.

Our school greatly appreciate the grant and definitely it's a great addition to our teaching resources and materials.

Our school making sure that our courses are affordable to our students.

But in this particular situation we have challenges. It is very important for those children to come once a week to have small classes so that the learning will be effective. This year we have challenges with the cost of rent and supplies that we need to buy, with paying instructors , to keep the group small.

Our school along with SAHLA is requesting Alberta Education to strengthen its commitment and support to heritage languages education for Alberta students.

It is very important to have support for the facility rental rates and instructors honorariums. This allows us to focus more to create an efficiency teaching environment for students . This is very important because students of the Heritage schools attending classes once a week and for this one day we should be able to create successful language environment which includes not only language but music, drama , cultural events that help to improve language skills and support culture.

Thank you so much for understanding our need and we are hoping for continuous support of the heritage language schools.