

Sixth Grade Cultural Extravaganza!

June 5, 2015

Dear Parents,

We are writing to hopefully get your help in making our "Sixth Grade Cultural Extravaganza" a huge success for the kids. This event will occur on **Friday, June 5, 2015**, and will be a celebration of the impact cultural migration has had on the United States of America and the lives we lead today. The entire sixth grade will participate in the day.

In Social Studies, we will be studying the migration of cultural groups to the USA over time, and the impacts this has had on cities around the country and their people. It is our hope that the kids will develop a strong understanding of how the movement of people has directly impacted their own lives today.

To give you a general idea of the breakdown of the day, here is what we are looking at:

- The morning will be a time for the kids to explore cultural markers that are prevalent in our country due to the migration of people to America. We are looking for the kids to possibly be able to play cultural games, do crafts, dance, listen to and possibly play music, learn a foreign language, cook and taste test cultural cuisine, listen to the stories of real immigrants, participate in martial arts demonstrations, etc. All activities would relate to the melting pot of cultures in the USA today.
- The afternoon will be a time to enjoy a Cultural Food Festival. The kids will experience cuisines from around the world that have become a part of our nation's palette. They will also be participating in a parade from the Middle School to the town common to show off their culturally driven costumes (more on this will come at a later date).

In preparing for this day, we are looking for your help. We would like to involve as many parents as we can. First and foremost, we are in need of people with an interest/expertise in running a station. If you or anyone you know are able to help out and run small groups for the morning sessions, we would greatly appreciate it. To give you an idea of what we are looking for, see the list below. **Any additional ideas are welcome!**

- Cultural **games** (board games, outdoor games, puzzles, etc.)
- Cultural **crafts** (we can gather any supplies you may need, given the price is relatively reasonable)
- Cultural **music** (do you play an instrument? Could you teach the kids a song or how to play?)
- Cultural **dancing** (could you teach the kids a dance? Does anyone teach Zumba?)
- Do you speak or write in a **foreign language** and could teach the kids how to write a poem, write their name, etc.?)
- Can you **cook** a cultural food and would you be willing to teach them in our FACTs room kitchen and talk about the food and its cultural meaning?
- Are you an **immigrant yourself or do you know an immigrant** that would be willing to speak to the kids?

All of these "stations" would require you speak to/teach small groups of kids four times though out the morning. Depending on the responses we get, we will better be able to set up the stations and the group sizes.

If you are not comfortable with helping out with a cultural station, we will also be asking for parents to "**chaperone**" the groups of kids and go with them to the stations. Additionally, we will be asking for volunteers to help organize, set up, serve and clean up for the Food Festival in addition to prepping banners and flags for the parade. We will allow any parent who wishes to participate in this day the opportunity to do so.

Please know this is a preliminary plea for help. **We will be sending out a separate volunteer sheet for the "chaperones", Parade and Food Festival help at a later time. Only reply now if you are willing to do a cultural activity at a station.**

Please email the appropriate Social Studies teacher for your child's team if you are able to help run an activity or if you know of someone in the community we could contact. Thanks so very much!

Regards,

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