



Press Release

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CONTACT: Andrea Zahn, director, communications
Pinellas County Schools
301 Fourth St. SW, Largo, FL 33770
(727) 588-6122, cell (727) 638-2903

World Languages International Day, March 6

World languages and ESOL students will celebrate Pinellas County Schools International Day, Saturday, March 6 at Meadowlawn Middle, 6050 16th St. N, St. Petersburg from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Five hundred students, teachers, judges and community volunteers assist with this annual celebration of cultural diversity.

A “Parade of Nations” opens the morning and features students from elementary, middle and high schools dressed in costumes representing the many languages and cultures found in the community. Following the opening ceremony in the multi-purpose room, students will scatter across the campus to enjoy the day filled with a variety of academic and nonacademic activities, including speaking events and hands-on cultural workshops. Upon arrival, schools enter banners, posters and 3-D design projects for judging which all refer to the theme of the day, Languages: The Power of Many Voices.

Each student participant receives a passport which gives the schedule of activities for the day. Students might make and taste Polish *pierogies*, French *fondue*, or Philippine *lumpia*. They might learn to dance the *tango* or play Russian soccer. Others will choose to create and take home *Mardi Gras* masks, Bolivian *muñecas de maíz* (cornstalk dolls), Guatemalan worry dolls or Chinese crafts. The full list of more than 30 workshops, prepared and presented by Pinellas County teachers of world languages, includes a variety of arts and crafts, cooking and cultural games.

Students are also judged on their recitation of poems and their participation in extemporaneous speaking in Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, French, and German. Compositions written in the target language are also judged. All students receive ribbons for their participation as well as feedback from native-speaking judges on their language abilities. In addition, schools are invited to participate in a dramatic presentation competition. Community members wishing to serve as judges for one of the languages above are asked to contact Jan Kucerik, world languages supervisor, (727) 588-6066.