



October 25, 2021

Dear Cultural Day Presenters,

Thank you very much for taking time off from your busy schedule and volunteering to present on Cultural Day. We appreciated learning about the rich culture and traditions of your countries. We have posted many pictures on our school website at www.oneontamontessori.com under CULTURAL DAY 2021. Please take a moment to check them out!

This school year, we have staff and children from over 37 countries, regions, and territories from around the world. We know how important it is that we learn more about each other, and I believe that our Cultural Day was a huge success!

The children were excited to 'travel around the world' all in one day. They were enthusiastic about listening, looking at beautiful pictures, watching videos, and asking questions about all the wonderful things your countries had to offer. They acquired so much knowledge and were very excited and fortunate to learn so many facts. Here are some that they very eagerly shared with me.

- **Ukraine:** Famous for beautiful sunflowers, chocolate and Matryoshka dolls. Children learn to ice skate and play musical instruments at a very early age and also like to play doctor. Many become world famous when they grow up. Pysanky eggs are decorated by adults and children alike, just like we do here in the USA during Easter.
- **China:** The Great Wall was built to keep out invaders and it is so big that it can be seen even from space. While Mandarin is most widely spoken, there are 302 different languages and dialects. Red is a lucky color and is worn on all major holidays. Food is a big part of the culture, and every festival and holiday is celebrated with different types of food. Yummy!
- **Singapore:** Known for its mythical mascot, the Merlion, half lion and half fish. Singaporeans are wise; with no natural resources in the country, they started importing raw materials, manufacturing and exporting finished electronic products. Very soon, Singapore grew from a little fishing village to a global superpower. We love how children in Singapore celebrate Racial Harmony Day at schools, bringing attention to awareness and inclusion. Way to go, Singapore!

- **India:** Is the 2nd most populous country in the world with many religions and ethnic groups. Cricket is the national game of India, just like baseball is in America. Lions and tigers are still found in the wild, and yay, for all the naughty monkeys! Diwali, a festival of lights, is celebrated by all, and fireworks are very popular at every holiday and festival. Food is very colorful and can be very tasty and spicy, so beware!
- **S. Korea:** Hangul, the writing system of the Korean language, was invented by King Sejong, a wise and influential king who wanted all Koreans to be able to read and write. Chuseok, like Thanksgiving, is a major holiday that honors ancestors where families gather and bow to a table of food laid out in their honor. We liked the fact that the more children bow to adults, the more money they receive! I'm sure every child was thinking, "how about we do that over here in the USA too?"
- **Ireland:** Irish people are great storytellers, and the ancient language of Gaelic is still being spoken in Ireland. Irish fairies are mythical, magical creatures that hide in the forest. We loved that leprechauns are naughty and play tricks on people. The shamrock represents the Christian faith--the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. On St. Patrick's Day, families first go to mass and then go to a pub to celebrate! One fact is truly amazing--no snakes in Ireland!
- **Iran:** Formerly known as Persia, Iran is very famous for its Persian rugs, where each is individually hand-made with different patterns, colors, and intricate details. Nowruz, Persian New Year, is celebrated with big festivities on the first day of spring when new life begins. Persian ice cream is nothing like what we are used to, and we are all heading over to Mashti Malone's for a taste of the real deal!
- **Laguna Pueblo Tribe:** Known hunter-gatherers in the past, they are now great artisans who use everything that comes from the Earth, such as clay and different pigments to create pottery, weaving, and jewelry. Musical instruments, such as drums, are a big part of their festivities where they dance to pray. The Eagle Dance is the special dance of the Laguna people. There are approximately 4000 - 6000 native Laguna Pueblo people today. A native daughter, Deb Haaland, is now Secretary of the Interior. It is such a great honor and a credit to all the Laguna Pueblo people! Congratulations!

Once again, thank you for all the planning and the effort you put into making Cultural Day a success. We appreciate parents like you who are so willing to help and make the school events we plan such a success. The children will remember everything they learned about your fabulous countries for many years to come. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Ms. Fiona