



October 17, 2022

Dear Cultural Day Presenters,

Thank you very much for taking time off from your busy schedule & volunteering to be presenters on Cultural Day. We appreciated learning about the rich culture & traditions of your countries. We will be posting many pictures on our school website; [www.oneontamontessori.com](http://www.oneontamontessori.com) under CULTURAL DAY 2022, as well as on DOJO/School Story, please take a moment to check them out!

This school year, we have staff & children from over 37 countries, regions and territories from around the world. We know how important it is that we teach our students about inclusion; learning more about each other is a good way to start. Needless to say, Cultural Day was a huge success!

The children were excited to 'travel around the world' all in one day. They were enthusiastic to listen, look at beautiful pictures, watch videos and ask 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 they very eagerly shared with me.

- **PERU;** A country located in South America, land of the Incas and the Amazonian tribes, original inhabitants. Tourists flock to Machu Picchu, to see the ancient ruins that the Inca's built. Vicunas, llamas and condors are found in Peru & one can even swim with the rare pink dolphins in the Amazon River. They grow many types of potatoes and a special type of corn that is purple and drink a beverage called Chicha de Jora.
- **HONDURAS;** It is the second biggest country in Central America; the white in the flag stands for peace and the blue stands for the sea. There are many Mayan ruins. The national bird is the Macaw and the white tailed deer is the national animal. Children play futbol and 'trompo'. They use instruments such as the xylophone and the maracas in their music. They eat tres leches, arroz con leche & lots of bananas, yummy!
- **POLAND;** A country located in Europe that has the largest castle in the world. The European Bison is the biggest mammal in Europe & is found in Poland; other animals include bear, fox, wolves, boar and lynx. Gooseberries grow in abundance and dumplings and Polish Sausage are some foods people eat, however, they don't have oranges or bananas! Marie Curie, a world renowned scientist was the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize. Soccer is the national sport and is played by all children.
- **SRI LANKA;** A country in Southern Asia that has a lion on the flag that stands for courage and strength. They are famous for their rare gemstones and tea that grows in the mountainous regions. Women wear an outfit called a sari and men wear a sarong and shirt. They play a game called cricket. Elephants are found in all the national parks and the

naughty monkeys will steal your bananas if you are not watching! Fishermen sit for long hours on a stilt in the middle of the ocean catching fish. The coconut tree has many purposes; drinking the water inside, cooking with the oil and the milk and making spoons and other curios with the hard shell. Angry looking masks at the entrance of homes keep bad spirits out.

- **THAILAND;** A country in Asia that has the Wat Arun Buddhist temple in Bangkok; it is world famous. King Rama 1X reigned for 70 years. The Cattleya orchid is very beautiful and grows in abundance & a flower garland is called the 'Malai'. There is a big boat market where people sell vegetables and fruits such as mangoes and rambutans, which are delicious. Many tourists visit to see some special elephants who paint with their trunks. All school children wear uniform to school, from preschool to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **ZIMBABWE;** A country in Africa which means 'House of Stone'. There is a big difference in how the people live in the village as compared to those living in the cities. Children living in the village help their parents by working in the fields after school. Tourists visit to go on safari and see wild animals that are in plenty, especially the big five; Lion, Leopard, Cape Buffalo, Elephant & Rhino. Lake Kariba and Victoria Falls are national landmarks. Soccer, rugby and cricket are the games played.
- **SWEDEN;** A Scandinavian country located in Northern Europe in the Baltic Sea. The Vikings were people from the Scandinavian countries. The country is covered in coniferous trees, and is home to the Arctic Wolf, Lynx, Eurasian Elk & Blackbird. Many famous people were Swedish; a children's author wrote the famous book, Pippi Longstockings, and the Nobel Peace Prize was named after Alfred Nobel. A Dala horse is considered a good luck symbol. Pickled Herring is a popular food & ice hockey, soccer and skiing are popular sports.
- **KAZAKHSTAN;** A country located in Central Asia that was a part of the former Soviet Republic. They have the largest lake in the world, the Caspian Sea. It is also the largest landlocked country in the world where the people speak Kazakh, Russian and English. People dance using fancy footwork and hand movements & they celebrate three separate New Years. The national animal is the Eagle, Soccer is the national sport & Beshbarmak is the national dish. A famous instrument played is called the Dombra.
- **LEBANON;** is located in the Middle East on the Mediterranean Sea and is known as one of the oldest countries in the world. It is home to ancient Roman ruins such as Baalbek. Raouche Rocks, also known as Pigeon Rocks, Moussa Castle & Tripoli Citadel are famous landmarks. It is famous for diamonds and gold and scrumptious foods such as hummus, kibbeh and tabbouleh that everyone enjoys! The famous writer and poet, Khalil Gibran, once wrote' "A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle." Words of wisdom we can all live by.

Once again, thank you for all the planning and the effort you put into making Cultural Day such a success. We appreciate parents, alumni and friends 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 on Cultural Day for many years to come. Thank You!

Sincerely,  
Ms Fiona