

Superintendent's Highlight of the Week

April 2, 2015

The Plainview-Old Bethpage schools recently had an opportunity to celebrate our rich diversity in cultural backgrounds through an event sponsored by the ESL department. The event was an opportunity for ESL students and their families to highlight and share their history, culture, and heritage. The event began with K Center students showing off their ASL skills with a performance of a song called, "Hello" in different languages, illustrating the universal language of a smile and a welcoming word.



Students in grades K-12 researched their country of origin, created engaging presentations, and prepared cultural foods. Colorful boards depicting the various cultures in our schools was on display in the POBMS gymnasium as the information was presented by students dressed in their native wear.



Students danced and shared scrumptious food to everyone's delight. They also participated in a cultural scavenger hunt throughout the evening, in which they learned about other cultures in our schools. Prizes including gift certificates were donated by local restaurants, including The Mixed Grill, Ayhan's Shish Kebab Restaurants, Hama Sushi Restaurant, and Wong's Noodle Town. Busto's Martial Arts and Agostino Story Telling enhanced the evening by sharing their cultural expertise with the audience.



Community organizations were also present to build strong community-school partnerships with our ESL families. These organizations include the Plainview Public Library, the Mid Island Y, North Shore Hospital, and representatives from the POB PTA.

At the night's end students were given children's books donated by the Plainview Old Bethpage public library. Students were also provided a voucher for a laptop, donated by Computers for Kids of Port Washington. The event was a wonderful celebration of the diversity that contributes to making POB a great place to live and learn.

