



SCHOOL TRENDS & EVENTS

Time to Play—It's Culture Day!



Cindy Tsai and group members from 8P talks to parents and teachers about the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

By ANITA CHEN & STEPHANIE LIN

On April 19th, middle school students took part in a marvelous all-day event. Each class divided into groups and researched their chosen topics and countries, wrote individual essays, created visually attractive posters and PowerPoints, and eventually presented to their classmates, parents, and other visitors.

Some of the countries that were presented were Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Kenya, and Vietnam.

On that day, their classrooms were pocket-sized versions of the school fair: crowded, noisy, educational, and super bustling!

“One of the biggest reasons that we want to do Culture Day is

because it introduces the students to countries and different cultures from all over the world and a big part of our school's mission is that we want our students to be global participants,” said Ms. Romalho.

She added that studying and learning about other cultures will help students in the future when they study or travel internationally.

“It will help introduce grade seven and eight students to all the different cultures and the different countries so we think this will be a fun way to introduce the idea of different cultures to the middle school students,” added Ms. Romalho.

“The team work provided peer learning opportunities. This allowed the students to take on leadership roles and responsibilities.

Students therefore were able to enhance their strengths and improve their weaknesses,” said Ms. Yeh and Mr. Yssel about the purpose of Culture Day.

It seems as if this goal was definitely reached. Many students said they had put a lot of effort into preparing for Culture Day, but that the most difficult task was to reach an agreement with their teammates.

When asked how her group solved the problem of dealing with different opinions, Vian Chen said: “We finally decided to mix our ideas together - half mine and half theirs!”

Grade 7 students, Aura Kung and Alice Gong, thought this event was certainly educational.

“We can learn about German culture. We had to give the teacher our progress and we stayed after school for two weeks,” they said.

Students also learned how to do research, and to summarize the main points of their speeches on cue cards.

Despite all the hard work and preparation, all the classrooms were filled with great spirit on the presentation day.

Willie Liao and Brandon Chang from 8J agreed that they enjoyed the day, and that they had had a lot of fun.

“Some students brought in food for display and for tasting. They were really excited to try out food from different countries,” said Ms Yeh.

Mr. Bates said: “[My] students came away from Open Day

with a sense of achievement and a noticeable confidence gained from presenting their speeches to outsiders.”

As the students presented, several groups of parents visited the classrooms.

Irene Chen, mother of Vian Chen from 8J, said that her daughter spent about one month at home preparing for the Culture Day. She was amazed by the extraordinary poster.

“It's really educational and I like it very much,” she said.

Some parents and students did have some ideas of how the event



Jasmine Hsu proudly shares all she learned about Canadian cuisine.

could be improved next year. Some students were disappointed because they only presented twice as their parents couldn't attend the Open Day. Some parents suggested that the stands should be in the gym and all run at the same time. They thought if the venue was larger, parents and visitors would have more time to walk around.

Although some students, parents, and teachers believed that Culture Day had some aspects that could be improved, many thought that it was an educational and entertaining event. Some students even feel that this event improved their communication skills, and their relationship with classmates.

The overall feedback was very positive and parents and students alike said that they would like to see Culture Day become an annual event.



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