
GAMES AROUND THE WORLD

Highlands Elementary School

Naperville, Illinois

To increase cultural awareness, Highlands Elementary School developed *Games Around the World*. Students K-5 and their families attended the evening event that demonstrated games invented in different countries that families could play at home.

This was the first activity that the School/Family/Community Partnership Team co-sponsored with Home & School. SFCP had the Games Night idea and H&S had the money to finance it within their multicultural budget. A five-person team, three from SFCP and two from H&S, planned and implemented this program in less than 6 weeks.

Over 100 students and their families arrived at the Highlands' School Airport Check-In to pick up their passport and a door prize ticket. The passport explained the history and rules of each game. The enthusiastic travelers touched down in: Africa for Manacala; China for Dominoes; Indonesia for Elephant-Ant-Man; France for Checkers; Greece for Backgammon; England for Chinese Checkers; India for Parcheesi; and Scandinavia for Fox and Geese.

In between each flight, travelers checked in at the Customs Station to have their passports inspected by the Customs Officer (Mrs. Stuckey, the Principal) and stamped for clearance to their next destination. When flights were delayed, travelers waited in the Gate Area and played Jacks or 3 Man Morris. On occasion, travelers re-routed through Terminal H for a quick game of Hopscotch on their way to their final destination. During the trip, game prizes were awarded to those with winning door prize tickets.

After globe trotting, each traveler flew back to the U.S.A. to pick up a souvenir American flag pin at Duty Free before departing Highlands' Airport to sleep off their jet lag in order to face another busy day at school.

Everyone reported enjoying learning some new games to play at home and gathering information about other cultures. Both participants and volunteers asked for another Games Night next year! The event also received a great write-up in *The Naperville Sun* newspaper. Most encouraging, students asked to play the games both at school and at home.

Because of the success of *Games Around the World*, the team is developing a follow-up program: *Indoor Recess Game Kits*. Each classroom will receive a Game Kit that includes a variety of board games—many that were played at Games Night and others that teachers recommended. The students will be able to have fun and exercise their brains when the weather requires them to stay inside for recess.

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