
THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CULTURES AND SWEET TREATS

Buffalo Public School #45

Buffalo, New York

On March 15th at 6:00 p.m., Buffalo Public School #45 welcomed families and the community to an International Festival. School #45 is a neighborhood PK-8 school with approximately 1100 students. The children come from all over the world including: Ethiopia, Iran, Cambodia, Laos, Sudan, Yemen, Vietnam, Bosnia, and Somalia. The students speak approximately twenty-nine languages.

During the festival, students took the audience on a colorful journey around the world by performing cultural songs and dances. They visited Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, North America, and the Caribbean. Mr. Odean Pope, a saxophonist and composer for the Coalition of the Arts, performed with the School #45 chorus.

Immediately following the program, participants visited “Sweet Treats Around the World” in the cafeteria. Teachers, aides, and parents provided desserts representing different parts of the world.

Families, community members, and the school worked together to make this event a success. Faculty members and parents together planned the program, taught the performances, and created the elaborate costumes. Students worked with family members at home to refine their roles in the festival and to help make their costumes. Parents, teachers, and students volunteered to help make scenery, posters, and desserts. The school advertised the International Festival in the newsletter and also sent home letters announcing the event. Area businesses purchased advertisement space in the program that the school had printed in different languages. Approximately four hundred people enjoyed the festivities, making this one of the most attended events of the school year.

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