

## International Day—Celebrating our Diversity

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*Delmae Elementary School  
Florence, South Carolina*

Students at Delmae Elementary School experienced the wonders of the world on a special International Day this spring. Delmae’s Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) organized the activity to celebrate the various cultures represented within the school community and increase family and community involvement. The celebration incorporated the school-wide goals of accepting diversity and improving students’ skills in reading, writing, and research.

Each class chose a country to research. After working together to study the country, the class prepared a bulletin board and display table to showcase their knowledge. The ATP asked parents, representing countries such as Korea, Japan, India, and Mexico, to participate by preparing food from their family’s culture and designing displays that educated students about their native countries. At International Day, each class toured the displays, sampled the food, attended Tae Kwon Do demonstrations provided by a nearby studio, and participated in ethnic dancing. Third- and fourth-grade students received an added treat, as two professors from Francis Marion University spoke to them about their countries, England and Australia.

International Day was far more effective than the ATP could have ever imagined. Due to the willingness of parents to share their diverse backgrounds, children were exposed to food, games, artifacts, and other aspects of many cultures to which they had never before been exposed. Delmae plans to make International Day an annual event, and will include even more members of the community next year. Organizers determined that if each grade

level continued to focus on one country per year, all students would be exposed to a variety of cultures during their five years at Delmae Elementary School.

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