

Cultural Positivity: NSU University School's Unity Fair Celebrates Diversity

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By Scott Fishman Staff Writer

Given the current events of the day, the NSU University School's Lower School Cultural Unity fair was as important as ever in helping children appreciate diversity.

The internationally themed event featured booths representing countries from around the world. Most of the booths are put together by parents, former classmates and faculty volunteers. Each of the representatives presents delicacies, games, model animals and other items that distinguish each country.

"It's built on itself over the years," said Adam Carswell, the Lower School's director. "The parents every year seem to take it up a notch. They are excited to participate and be a part of the fair."

Students visit each booth with a sheet to document what they learned. Later, a scavenger hunt gets them thinking about flag colors and food from the various countries. South Africa, Italy, Jamaica, Argentina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. were some of the countries featured. First-graders Nick Dyer and Alexa Curry said they enjoyed the interactive experience.

"I learned a lot about Brazil," Nick said. "I liked looking at the [Romero Britto] drawings."

Former Upper School students volunteered their time at the France table. They handed out stickers, allowed children to smell lavender and specific herbs and take a look at French monuments via a three-dimensional puzzle. Sydney Juda remembered attending the cultural Unity Day as a student herself.

"I even saw some of my old teachers so it's nice," she said. "We are getting something out of this as much as they are."



School volunteers show students the unique aspects of cultures from around the world during a Cultural Unity Fair.

The fair is the culmination of a week of events. Other activities include guidance teachers going to classrooms to talk about the importance of diversity and how the idea can make their lives richer.

This particular year was bittersweet for mother Theresa Antoniou. She has been volunteering the past six years and her son, Rocco, is headed to middle school. In the past, Antoniou worked with another person at the United Kingdom booth. The dedicated parent also formulated the idea to bring bags for the kids to take their trinkets, food and other items home with them.

"I enjoy being a part of these types of events every year," Antoniou said.

"The Unity Fair is a great to volunteer and see all the children and the different grades and different cultures that go to the school."