Diverse display

Davie school hosts Unity Fair

By Scott Fishman
STAFF WRITER

Students at the Lower School of University School in Davie recently celebrated their diversity with a Unity Fair.

The event was the culmination of a week of activities that allowed youngsters to explore different parts of the world. More than 20 displays were set up, representing various countries and cultures.

"The goal of this program is character development," said guidance counselor David Womack. "Through increased self-esteem, we see a greater tolerance for others. This is accomplished by helping our students understand and appreciate that they are simultaneously a part of many different cultures and communities."

During the fair, students had "passports" that were stamped after every destination they visited. Students visited a minimum of five locations, tasted different dishes and learned about various cultures and traditions.

Fifth-grader Sydney Glidden enjoyed the food the most.

"It's good to see what's out in the world and learn about other cultures. I just think that is really important," she said.

Lisa Hughes, a lawyer and parent volunteer, said the event is a good educational experience.

"Every part of the world those kids are connected," she said. "I'd like [my son] to have an appreciation of his culture as well as others. This is the first year we've had a U.S.A. table. I also thought it was important to represent the United States along with all of the other countries."

The days leading up to the event featured a number of educational exercises coinciding with the theme. Students got to better understand where they came from, and teachers got in on the fun by talking about their family's history and cultures.

The school decided to put on the event based on last year's success. Womack said the event helped highlight the school's diversity.

"We want the community at large to know that we value cultural diversity through an appreciation of our own family cultures," he said. "We believe we are a stronger community because we value our own individual cultures."

Parent volunteer Jose Rodriguez makes the Puerto Rican flag while University School third-grader Sebastian Robles puts some of the hand crafted masks on display at the school's Unity Fair.