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HORACE MANN'S SPECTACULAR ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL WEEK DAZZLES & UNITES THE HUSKY NATION

50 Countries Represented by Families at Week-Long Celebration for TK - 5 Students

October 22, 2019 -- Beverly Hills, CA - Horace Mann's Annual **Multicultural Week**, a PTA funded and organized event, united families from **October 14th - 18th**, showcasing the elementary school's incredible diversity by immersing students in a **unique** week-long celebration of world cultures. Kicking off on October 11th with a colorful **Parade of Nations**, the event's opening ceremony hosted hundreds of children and parents who marched around the Purple Field to "*We Are The World*" waving their own handmade flags representing more than 50 countries.

Throughout the entire week students, parents and staff had an opportunity to share their heritage in an open and inclusive experience on the school's beautifully renovated campus. With the support of more than **250 parent volunteers**, each day a different region was represented by lively authentic music, dance performances, delicious traditional food and engaging activities. From **Europe (Monday)**, **Oceania & Africa (Tuesday)**, **Asia (Wednesday)**, **Middle East (Thursday)** and **Americas (Friday)**, students were greeted every morning by different regional groups dressed in traditional clothing, excited to taste new flavors, listen to music, create handmade crafts and play cultural games. Children were serenaded by a Scottish Bagpiper and Mexican Mariachi Band; experienced a Viking reenactment; danced with Ukrainian, African, Hawaiian Hula, Indian Bollywood, Brazilian Samba and Cumbia Colombian dancers; walked through a 15 feet tall Japanese Torii, played in Korean Samul Nori and Middle Eastern drum circles, sang with 3rd grade mom performer [Kandace Lindsey](#) in Spanish and Portuguese, played Euro Cup Football, Copa Americas Gooooool, Canadian Hockey, Jaegi, Bàu Cua Cá Cọp and practiced Yoga. Jaws dropped when an Italian Lamborghini drove onto campus and mouths watered from the handmade fresh Italian pizza baked in Pizzeria La Bella Luna's authentic stone oven.

The school's library was completely transformed into the first ever, **Cultural Museum**, with interactive displays full of treasures from 50 countries shared by our Horace Mann families to educate students with facts, history, books, crafts, artifacts, cultural objects and personal stories told by our team of parent docents. Museum highlights include: 1924 English soccer ball and cleats, Spartan Iron Helmet, Flamenco Guitar, hand-carved African Wooden animals, and handmade Ecuadorian Cuenca dolls. 720 students received individual passports and would get country stamps by visiting the Cultural Museum with their classes and participating in activities throughout the week.

Students came home with their handmade Royal Crowns, Russian Bublik Necklaces, African Beaded Necklaces, Hawaiian Leis, Japanese Calligraphy on Rice Paper, Origami, Cherry Blossom paintings, Mini Sukkahs, Brazilian Carnival Masks and Galapagos Turtles.

The dazzling week ended with 6 cultural dances performed by students in each grade, TK / Kindergarten through 5th grade, organized and choreographed by Horace Mann's PE team, Coach White and Coach Para.

"We are so incredibly grateful to our community of parents for their unbelievable support of our PTA funded Multicultural Week. More than 250 parents participated and shared their cultural history and treasures through food, art, dance, music, crafts, books and personal stories! The authentic nature in which our school's 50 countries were represented was extraordinary. In this year of transition, it was especially important to use this year's Multicultural Week to bring everybody together. Our hope was to give all students an opportunity to show pride in their cultures and connect with something familiar, but we did much more than that. In sharing where we come from, we united students, parents and staff members with each other; giving our entire Horace Mann community the opportunity to really connect in a fantastic week that we can all be proud of." -- Jenn Pedersen, Horace Mann Multicultural Week Chair

"This is education at its very finest - allowing students to feel seen and understood, to learn from each other's differences and common humanness, to explore the world's richness through a variety of lenses, and to afford their families the invaluable opportunity to connect on a deeper level. In my many years working in schools in New York, San Francisco and, now, Los Angeles, I have never witnessed a more impactful and inclusive school event. It was truly an honor to participate in the celebration of the diversity that characterizes the Horace Mann community, and sets it apart!" -- Ms. Tiffany Graham, Visual Art Instructor, Horace Mann School

"With more than 50 countries represented at Horace Mann, we truly represent a global village. Our annual Multicultural Week promotes cultural recognition and respect that brought our students and families closer together, and built bonds between the students as they learned about each other's different customs. It enabled students to acquire skills and develop a positive attitude to communicate, interact, and foster acceptance and tolerance with individuals from varied cultures to create a moral and civic community. We are so grateful to our PTA and parents for creating this weeklong interactive learning experience to celebrate the diversity of our community through cultural and traditional art, craft, performance and food. I am so proud and honored to be the Principal of our magnificent school." -- Mr. Craig Bugbee, Principal Horace Mann School

A regional Bake Sale was held every day after school to help fund the event. We are so grateful to our gracious sponsors: [Asakuma](#), [Barnana](#), [California Mills Cheese Bread](#), [Chef Ming's Kitchen](#), [Creme de la Crepe Beverly Hills](#), [Gelato-go Beverly Hills](#), [GI Automotive Group](#), [The Peel Connection](#), Pizzeria La Bella Luna, Sparkles & Ribbons, [Trader Joes](#), [Ubatuba Acai](#) and [Urth Caffe](#).

Multicultural Week gives Horace Mann a platform to showcase what makes each culture unique and brings our students and families closer as we appreciate and realize the many commonalities we all share.

MCW 2019 by Numbers:

- 50 Countries
- 250 Parent & Grandparent Volunteers
- 20 Arts & Crafts Activities
- 12 Music & Dance Performances
- 10 Sports & Games

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