



Minnesota International Center
A World Affairs Council

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Media Alert

Traveling Around the World in One Day

Edgewood Students Explore World Cultures During *World Cultures Day*

What: *World Cultures Day at Edgewood Elementary in Brooklyn Park*
A day-long series of cultural showcases, sponsored by the Minnesota International Center, to introduce Kindergarten through 6th grade students to world cultures, face-to-face.

When: Monday, April 14th, 2008 – 9:10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Where: 6601 Xylon Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN

Highlights: - **Students participate in lively conversations with international guests**, representatives of 13 countries, including: Austria, Bulgaria, China, Germany, Hungary, India, Russia, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Tanzania and Viet Nam.

- **International guests** rotate throughout classrooms in the school making a total of 60 visits to 520 students. Speakers show their traditional dress, artifacts and colorful cultural showcases.

- 9:15 a.m. - Brian Van Tassel performs on a traditional African drum; 2:10 p.m. Blanche Krbecek performs a traditional Polish folk hymn on a bagpipe; and Kun Yang performs an old Chinese folk song.

The Minnesota International Center (MIC) believes that if the world can be personalized to young people, they will become more aware and informed about the world.

World Cultures Day is part of MIC's statewide initiative to provide the schoolchildren of Minnesota with opportunities to interact with people from other cultures. MIC aims to awaken the children's curiosity and increase their cultural competency so they can successfully participate in our multicultural community.

Details: Edgewood Elementary has hosted *World Cultures Days* before. It has become a signature event for the school that continues to find ways to create an open learning environment for students. The school believes the *World Cultures Day* promotes intercultural learning and conversation its students and faculty.

Each student receives a "passport," stamped by international guests from each country, which serves as a reminder of the day's experiences and multicultural purpose.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, MIC coordinated more than 800 statewide visits of 100+ speakers from 50 countries to an audience of 18,000 students in Minnesota schools.

Notes: News photography and filming at the event permitted.



Funded in part by the Education Minnesota Foundation

Acclaimed as a national model for world affairs programs, the Minnesota International Center (MIC) inspires the Minnesota community to understand global issues and cultures in an ever changing world. In 2006, MIC was awarded the Carol Marquis Award for Excellence in School Programs by the World Affairs Councils of America. Find out more at www.micglobe.org.