



Minnesota International Center
A World Affairs Council

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Media Alert

A World Adventure for Rush Creek Students

Rush Creek Students Celebrate A *World Cultures Day*

What: *World Cultures Day at Rush Creek Elementary in Maple Grove*
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: Friday, April 18, 2008 – 9:25 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Where: 8801 County Road 101 North, Maple Grove, MN 55311

Highlights:

- Students learn about daily life in other cultures, meeting face to face with 19 international guests, natives of 13 countries, including: Austria, Bulgaria, China, Germany, India, Korea, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Ukraine.
- International guests rotate throughout classrooms in the school making a total of 100 visits to around 900 students. Speakers show their traditional dress, artifacts and colorful cultural showcases.
- 9:25 a.m. - Brian Van Tassel performs on a traditional African drum; 2:40 p.m. -Blanche Krbechek performs a traditional Polish hymn on a bagpipe; and 2:45 p.m. - Kun Yang sings an old Chinese hymn.

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

World Cultures Day is part of MIC's statewide effort 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: Rush Creek is committed to finding innovative ways to create an open learning environment for students. The school introduced the *World Cultures Day* concept to students five years ago to promote intercultural learning and conversation among 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.

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