



Minnesota International Center
A World Affairs Council

Media contact:

George Hornik,
Program
Manager,
Minnesota
International
Center

Kari Dahlquist
Principal, Creek Valley
Elementary

ghornik@umn.edu
612.626.4987

KarDahlquist@edina.k12.mn.us
952.848.3200

Media Alert

Rising Global Citizens On a Quest from India to Brazil

Creek Valley Students Celebrate their first World Cultures Day

A World Cultures Day at Creek Valley Elementary in Edina

What:

A day long series of cultural showcases, sponsored by the Minnesota International Center and Creek Valley's Global Citizens Fund, to introduce Kindergarten through 5th grade students to world cultures, face to face.

When:

Wednesday, October 24th, 2007 – 9:40 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where:

6401 Gleason Rd, Edina MN 55439

Highlights:

- **Students learn about daily life in other cultures**, meeting face to face with 22 international guests, natives of 19 countries, including: Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, India, Mongolia, China, Hungary, Poland, Jamaica, Brazil, Japan, Germany, the Philippines, Indonesia, Denmark, Sri Lanka, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Argentina, and Nigeria.

- **International guests** rotate among classrooms in the school making a total of 67 visits to 560 students. Speakers show their traditional dress, artifacts, and colorful cultural showcases.

- 9:40 a.m., Siting Zhou from China will perform a song with Hulusi, a free reed wind instrument with bamboo pipes used primarily in Yunnan province; 2:40 p.m. Blanche Krbehek will perform a traditional Polish folk hymn on a bagpipe.

Details:

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.

Creek Valley's Global Citizens Fund was created in 2005 with the goal of expanding our children's awareness and understanding of world cultures. The mission of the Global Citizens Fund is to enhance the Edina ICCAR ethical values through global programs with the purpose of inspiring all Creek Valley students to become responsible and caring world citizens.

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 600 statewide visits of 100+ speakers from 51 countries to an audience of 16,000 students in Minnesota schools.

Notes:

News photography and filming at the event permitted.

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.