

Title I Presents - Christmas Around the World: A Title I Literacy Night

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Graysville Elementary School

Minutes

Families began arriving at 5:15 pm and were welcomed at the front doors to the Graysville International Gateway, where they signed in and were directed to the next station by our Resource Teachers. Students went to the baggage claim and were given a suitcase folder to record their travel information. Students and families really liked the suitcases as way to record data. Parents were directed to our customs agents (Resource Teachers and Academic Coach) where they received an agenda, a travel guide that listed the teacher, country, and room number of each classroom, a literacy packet for take home, and an evaluation to be completed at the end of the night. A table was also in the foyer for parents to view the Georgia Standards of Excellence grade-level standards that were covered at the event and used in the classroom during the creation of the countries. Families also had access to the following handouts and brochures: School Policy, District Policy, Policy trifold, GA Standards, Annual Meeting Agenda/Minutes, Testing in Georgia, Components of a Schoolwide Plan, How to Communicate with Your Child's Teacher and translated versions of those documents.

At 5:30 pm the classroom countries were opened for travel. Students and families were first directed to their homeroom class to begin the night and present their work to their family. Each classroom had their country and flag prominently displayed, with works of art and writings depicting various traditions. Each class also researched how to say "Merry Christmas" in their country's native language. Many classrooms had traditional food and drink to sample with indigenous music playing in the background. Each classroom developed a slide presentation using Google Slides to present their research to our "travelers" and these were played throughout the night. Teachers were on hand in their classrooms to answer any questions. Several wore costumes reflecting the dress of their country. These extra touches made it an exciting night for our families! Once families had visited their homeroom, they were free to travel around the school to visit additional countries and complete their travel suitcase. Each suitcase had 8 sections to complete with the following information: Country names, Country Flag, how to say Merry Christmas, and a place to write (2nd-5th) or draw (K-1st) a tradition they learned during their time in that classroom. Families were able to travel and research at their own speed. Additional information pages were available at the "baggage claim" table in the foyer. GA Standards of Excellence were posted in each hallway and directional signage aided families in navigating the school.

Families were able to travel the school until 6:50 pm when an announcement was made that the GES chorus concert would be beginning at 7:00 pm. Those wishing to attend the concert were directed to

the gym, while those not attending were helped to wrap up their travel suitcases. Evaluations were collected at the front door and verbal feedback was collected by Marissa Watson, Parent Involvement Coordinator. Most feedback was very positive, with families speaking highly of the work done by students and teachers to make this evening educational and entertaining. The only negative feedback was that most would have enjoyed a longer timeframe to visit more counties! Families enjoyed that it was a family-friendly event and were impressed by the research done by their students. In closing, Christmas Around the World: A Title I Literacy Night was very successful and well attended by our students and their families.