Hispanic Heritage Month September 15th -October 15th

September 15th – October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month! We have a month full of festive ways to celebrate here at \_\_\_\_\_\_. Here is what will be going on throughout the month so you can mark your calendars!

On the first day, September 15th, we will start a piñata creating contest. We will break it down into 2 contests, one for K-2 and one for 3-6. We will reward 1st and 2nd place winners in both divisions!!  On the back is a copy of the directions for students to guide them on how to make one. The piñatas will be displayed in the library as they turn them in. All piñatas must be turned in by Monday, October 12th in order to be judged. Judging will take place that afternoon and will be announced on announcements Tuesday, October 13th.  All students will need to have their piñata picked up by that Friday the 16th from the library.

Our countries of focus will be Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica and we will celebrate one per week. A power point for each country will be made with photos and fun facts of the country of the week that will play right after announcements on Fridays (Sept 18th, Sept 25th, October 2nd, October 9th and October 16th).

3rd-6th grades will be making sombreros and papel picados in art class over the next 2 weeks and they will be hung down the main halls starting September 18th.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ our librarian, will display books over a variety of Hispanic countries and cultures in the library so that the kids can check them out and learn more.

We look forward to celebrating and learning with our students!

 Counselor

 Elementary School

 972-xxx-xxxx

**Create your own Pinata!**

First of all you need to get set up. Make sure you have a clean area to start, like a kitchen table or desk. Remember, this is one craft where getting gloop on your hands (and [**all over the place**](http://www.kidzworld.com/article/26506-dear-dish-it-my-rooms-a-mess)!) is part of the process.

**Materials:**

* Newspaper
* String
* Glue
* Balloons
* Flour
* Water
* Mixing bowl
* Decorative tissue and/or paint
* Optional: Confetti, Candy, Cardboard

**Instructions:**

1. First put down some newspaper on your work area. Mix together flour and warm water in a big mixing bowl until the mixture is a gloopy consistency...just like pancake batter!
2. Blow up a balloon as big as you can (you may even want to get your parents to help you). Cut or tear newspaper into strips.
3. If you want to make a piñata that’s a little more complicated, like a donkey or a rabbit, use cardboard and tape to add ears, legs or whatever you need to your balloon.
4. Now for the fun part! Dip and drag the strips of newspaper through the paste and cover your balloon. Add additional layers, letting each layer dry in between - if you make it too thick though it makes it hard to break, so two or three layers is usually enough.
5. Between layers tie your string or rope around the piñata with enough string leftover that you can hang it afterwards. The papier mache will hold it in place. It may take a while for your piñata to dry so you might want to start cleaning up and even go do something else before coming back to your art space.

***Psst!*** Here’s a handy trick: if you leave the tie of the balloon uncovered, it can make it easier to pop the balloon once it’s dry so you can fill it with confetti or small candies!

**It’s Great To Decorate**

Once your piñata is dry you can decorate it any way you want! Traditional Mexican piñatas used decorative tissue cut into squares and layered with glue to create a fun fringed effect! You can also simply paint your piñata with whatever design you dream up – your piñata could be a planet, a person, a pet – it’s up to you!

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