

Celebrating Diversity Throughout the Year Elementary Classroom Community

“Books can make a difference in dispelling prejudice and building community: not with role models and recipes, not with noble messages, but with stories that make us imagine the lives of others.” ~Hazel Rochman, *Against Borders: Promoting Books for a Multicultural World*

About Equity & Diversity within the Classroom Community: We believe that the inclusion of multiple voices is multi-pronged. As we revise Shared Literacy, we seek to include titles within each unit that represent the myriad of voices that make up our global society. In addition, we believe that we can also celebrate diversity through the nationally designated months to shine a spotlight on the contributions that have often been left out.

As an educational institution, we value curiosity around cultures, celebrations, and traditions that make up the complexity of our global society. As a public education institution, we are mindful that we want learners to be well-rounded and aware of the complexity of our global society. Because of this, the equity team has designed the following principles to guide decision-making around activities within the learning environment and school community. We are also mindful that the celebration of any one tradition should not outweigh the traditions and celebrations of others. We want every person in the organization to feel welcomed, seen, and safe at school. All belong here; when we embrace the diversity of our community, we add to the collective experience, thus creating joyful learning opportunities for all.

In District 129, we are guided by the following principles when deciding on activities:

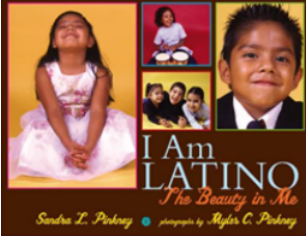
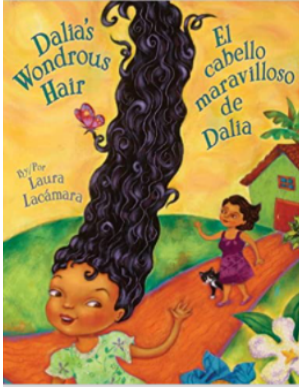

- We believe that all learners have the right to and deserve to be included, accepted, and to contribute unique perspectives and experiences.
- We value the creation of a school community where each individual is accepted and embraced for who and what they bring to the learning space.
- We believe that a sense of belonging involves the acceptance, care for the needs, and growth of all learners.
- We believe that every individual is shaped and influenced by multiple factors that add to an educational community's rich tapestry.

“Let's invite one another in. Maybe then we can begin to fear less, to make fewer wrong assumptions, to let go of the biases and stereotypes that unnecessarily divide us.”

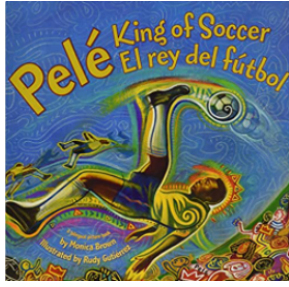
~Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

“In diversity there is beauty and there is strength.” ~Maya Angelou

National Hispanic Heritage Month - Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

<p>I am Latino: The Beauty in Me* By Myles Pinkney 978-0316160094</p> 	<p>In this celebration of Latino children, Myles Pinkney's joyous photographs and Sandra Pinkney's buoyant text showcase traditional food, music, and more through each of the five senses. From dancing the salsa and the tango to smelling delicious empanadas and mouth watering tamales, to treasuring time with family members and even learning Spanish words and phrases along the way, this is the perfect way to celebrate Latino culture.</p>
<p>Dalia's Wondrous Hair / El cabello maravilloso de Dalia By Laura Lacamara 978-1558857896</p> 	<p>One night, while Dalia slept safely wrapped in her mother's cool silken sheets, her hair grew and grew. By the time the rooster crowed, her hair had "grown straight up to the sky, tall and thick as a Cuban royal palm tree." Her mother was amazed, and wondered what her daughter would do with her wondrous hair.</p> <p>As Dalia looked at the flowers blooming in the garden, an idea sprouted inside her. She decorated her hair with leaves from the forest and mud from the marsh. Her mother was puzzled and could not imagine what she was. "Are you a leaf-crust mud-tree?" she guessed incorrectly. That night, while Dalia slept safely cocooned in her mama's sheets, something stirred and unfolded. When the rooster crowed, the girl ran outside and everyone watched in awe as she carefully unwrapped her towering hair. Could it be? Is Dalia a . . . blossoming butterfly tree!?</p> <p>In this whimsical bilingual picture book, Dalia's hair becomes a magical force of nature, a life-giving cocoon. Author and illustrator Laura Lacamara once again delights children ages 4 to 9 with her vibrant illustrations and an imaginative story about a girl's fanciful encounters with nature.</p> <p>Bonus features include a guide for how to create your own butterfly garden at home, as well as a bilingual glossary of select plant and animal species native to the island of Cuba.</p>
<p>Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day - Celebremos El dia de los ninos By Pat Mora 978-0061288784</p> 	<p>Children's Day/Book Day; El día de los niños/El día de los libros is observed each year on April 30. Founder Pat Mora's jubilant celebration of this day features imaginative text and lively illustrations by award-winning illustrator Rafael López that will turn this bilingual fiesta into a hit for story time! Toon! Toon!</p> <p>The book includes a letter from the author and suggestions for celebrating Children's Day /El día de los niños, making the book perfect for gifting, family celebrations, and classroom sharing.</p>
<p>Pele. King of Soccer/Pele. El Rey del Futbol By Monica Brown 978-0061227806</p>	<p>Monica Brown and Rudy Gutierrez team up to deliver what Kirkus called, in a starred review, an "inspiring blend of art and story," about the most famous soccer star in the world, Pelé.</p> <p>This bilingual picture book will inspire, teach, and amaze readers as they learn about the man who revolutionized the sport of soccer.</p> <p>Do you know how a poor boy from Brazil who loved fútbol more than anything else</p>

Created 9/2023 - Revised throughout 2023/2024 with updated titles



became the biggest soccer star the world has ever known? This is the true story of Pelé, King of Soccer, the first man in the history of the sport to score a thousand goals and become a living legend. Rudy Gutierrez's dynamic illustrations make award-winning author Monica Brown's story of this remarkable sports hero come alive!