

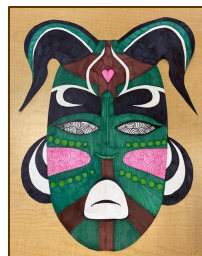
Pathfinder

MARCH 2024



HERITAGE AND ART AT GOLDEN WEST

- Mr. Vieira integrates culture into his art classes at Golden West. In October, his art students study cultural masks and their significance. Students learn about symmetry and burnishing while they study and create sugar skulls, which are an important symbol in the Mexican celebration of el Día de los Muertos. They also learn about European masks used in masquerade parties. Mr. Vieira teaches his students that most cultural masks have ceremonial or religious significance in every world culture. Students then choose the culture they would like to explore and create a mask project. Below are examples of what students in Mr. Vieira's art classes produced this year. Well done, artists!



From left to right, the masks above are representative of these cultures: Asian, Hawaiian, Egyptian, African, Aztec, and Latin American.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: PEA PASCUA

Golden West senior, Pea Pascua, is from the Philippines. She has lived in the United States for four years and plans to return to the Philippines after graduation to study nursing. When she finishes her studies, she will return to the United States to work as a nurse. Pea and her family have preserved their Filipino heritage while living in California. Christmas and New Years holidays are very important to her family. One important Christmas tradition is bringing their family together for a special Christmas Eve dinner called "Noche Buena", where they share a midnight feast featuring traditional Filipino dishes like lechon (roasted pig), pancit (noodles), and bibingka (rice cakes). On New Year's Eve, many people with Filipino heritage wear polka dots to bring good luck in the coming year. Pea encourages Golden West students to learn more about the history of her beautiful country.



CLUB SPOTLIGHT: INTERNATIONAL DANCE CLUB

International Dance Club became a Golden West club last year. The club became so popular, that it was offered as a class this year. Now members of the International Dance Club are students who really wanted to take the class, but couldn't fit it into their schedule, and more students who are very interested in learning unique dance styles. Students have learned cultural dances like Salsa, Cumbia, Chinese and Lahu dances, as well as different dance styles from the United States. Recently, club members learned and practiced a traditional Lahu dance that is performed during Lahu New Year. Club president, Amber Arellano (senior), said that she has learned more about how different cultures move through learning their dances. Some culture's dance styles are more flowy and some are stiffer. One goal of International Dance Club is for the club to perform in next year's dance show. If you're interested in seeing what this club has to offer, talk to one of the club members or their advisor Ms. Martin. They often meet in the dance room on Tuesdays at lunch.



LEARN ABOUT PORTUGUESE HERITAGE WITH MRS. COSTA



Above left, Mrs. Costa stands by her father's former home in Lajes village, which no one has lived in since he left in 1967. On the right is the gorgeous island Terceira.

Golden West counselor, Mrs. Costa, has Portuguese heritage. Her parents are from two different villages on Terceira island in the Azores region of Portugal. Her parents moved to the United States in the 1960's to avoid mandatory military service. Growing up, Mrs. Costa's parents instilled in her a love of their Portuguese ancestry and heritage. Her first language is Portuguese. One of her favorite Portuguese foods is traditional filhós, Portuguese donuts. She has wonderful memories of participating in cultural traditions and celebrations for Carnival, the biggest festival of the year in Portuguese culture, which usually happens in February. Now Mrs. Costa and her husband, who is also Portuguese, involve their daughter in all of the cultural events and celebrations, passing on to her the love of their heritage.

