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**Joy to the World: Keeneyville’s ‘Holidays Around the World’ Brings Cultures Together in Celebration**

*District 20’s Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee hosted a vibrant event celebrating global traditions, flavors, and festivities.*



**HANOVER PARK, Ill. (Dec. 12, 2025)** — Keeneyville School District 20 kicked off the holiday season on Thursday with its inaugural “Holidays Around the World” celebration. Hosted by the district’s

Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC), the festive event brought together hundreds of students, families and staff for an evening of culture, tradition and cheer.

More than 300 attendees sampled cookies and hot chocolate inspired by traditions from China, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Middle East and Poland. Families also enjoyed ornament crafts, piñatas and candy, and a visit from Santa Claus — complete with two elves and plenty of holiday spirit.



Dual Language and English Learner (EL) students across the district contributed by decorating ornaments for a culturally themed tree displayed at the event. Students also crafted gingerbread houses reflecting traditions from countries such as Guatemala, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sudan, Ukraine, Uganda and Venezuela.



“Our bilingual families told us they want more opportunities to connect in a fun, family-friendly environment — so we listened,” said BPAC President Maria Hernandez. “‘Holidays Around the World’ creates those moments of togetherness while celebrating the diversity that makes our district unique.”

Students also browsed and took home Dual Language educational activity books.



“This evening is a beautiful reminder of the diversity that makes our district special,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Omar Castillo. “When families share traditions, food and stories, we strengthen our community and celebrate the values of understanding and unity we instill in our students every day.”

BPAC is a state-required committee of parents, staff and community leaders dedicated to supporting multilingual learners and representing the languages served by the district. Its mission is to empower bilingual families through advocacy, education and collaboration — ensuring that every multilingual learner in District 20 receives equitable access to high-quality instruction and support.

For more details on BPAC and how to participate, visit [www.esd20.org/for-parents/bpac-bilingual-parent-advisory-committee](http://www.esd20.org/for-parents/bpac-bilingual-parent-advisory-committee).

### **About Keeneyville School District 20**

Keeneyville School District 20 (KSD20) is a public elementary school district located in Hanover Park, Ill., serving approximately 1,350 students from preschool through eighth grade across four schools: Greenbrook Elementary, Waterbury Elementary, Spring Wood Middle School and the Early Childhood Center. Founded in 1887 and renamed for local developer Albert F. Keeney, the district has a proud history rooted in community growth and educational innovation. With more than 230 dedicated staff members, KSD20 supports families in Hanover Park, Bloomingdale, Keeneyville and Roselle. As the largest feeder to Lake Park High School District 108, the district is dedicated to inclusive, high-quality education and its mission to ignite each student’s power and potential.

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