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For Immediate Release:

Spring FLES Activities and Accomplishments at Stewart School

By April Cornachio, Stewart School FLES teacher

This spring, fourth and fifth grade Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) students at Stewart School were busy honing their Spanish language skills.

Fourth graders spent the spring learning about foods, beverages, and the names of the meals in Spanish. Although there was an emphasis on healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, protein, and grain foods, students also learned to express their preferred desserts as well. They utilized the expressions “to like,” or “dislike,” “a lot,” “a little,” or “not at all,” which they can apply to other topics they have learned about over the course of their first year of introductory Spanish. The students created a produce stand and learned about how in other countries, people don’t shop for food the way they do in Garden City. Students were surprised to learn that in other places people eat what is grown locally and in season. Another surprise for students was to be able to read and understand familiar food-centered storybooks in Spanish, such as Eric Carle’s “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and Dr. Seuss’ “Green Eggs and Ham.” The fourth graders enjoyed the books and were proud that between their familiarity with the stories, English cognates (words in two languages that share a similar meaning, spelling, and pronunciation), and what they have learned this past year in the FLES classroom; they gained much success in their newly acquired language.

The fourth graders ended the school year with a thematic unit that was an enormously popular and motivating one -- sports! They learned the names of the sports in Spanish, were able to express which ones they played, which sports were their favorites, and acted out a dialogue about sports in class.

For fifth graders at Stewart School, it has been an exciting spring in the FLES classes. They worked on an “All About Me” writing project in which they described themselves in depth in a letter to their fifth grade counterparts at Stratford School. The pen pals shared information about school life, expressing their favorite subjects, describing favorite travel destinations and what sports they played; what they looked like, their personality traits, and about any pets they own. They included a drawing of themselves doing one of the activities described in the letter. Even before their pen pal letters were sent to Stratford School, fifth grade students were asking, “When are we going to get our letters from the fifth graders at Stratford?”

After this exercise, they re-wrote their letters in essay format on an attractive template. The letters were later displayed all around Stewart School.

The last activities of the school year for fifth grade FLES students revolved around their study of the restaurant theme. They learned how to express their favorite restaurants in Spanish, the place settings found in a restaurant, people who work there, how to ask for things, and the vocabulary for payment. Their culminating activity in this thematic unit, and for their Spanish classes, was to create a menu for their own restaurant.

As in years past, all FLES students entered the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) annual Design-a-Card contest. The contest requires students to illustrate an original Hispanic-themed note card. At Stewart School, the works of 43 students were chosen to represent the school, with many designs making it to the semi- and quarter-finals. One student, Jacqueline Caruthers, placed third in the overall competition. We congratulate all students for their efforts, and extend a special commendation to Jacqueline!



Caption for6-9-17IMG_1296STEFifthGr.jpg:
Stewart FLES students with their spring Spanish language projects.



Caption for 6-9-17DesignACard.jpg:

Fifth grade student Jacqueline Caruthers, third place overall winner of the AATSP Design-A-Card competition, is pictured with Stewart FLES teacher Señora Cornachio at the AATSP Award ceremony at Great Neck South High School. Well done, Jacqueline!