

Parents,

Your child has been assigned to work with a group of students who were picked at random to research and report about a multicultural holiday or festival. This assignment requires your child to give a presentation with his/her group on September 4th or 8th during reading class. In the reading text book on pg. 12- Multicultural Activity, you will find a very general description of the project. Students are required to report to their class by explaining the origin of a festival and how it is celebrated. Students have the option to demonstrate the holiday or festival customs and present food. The report must be one page typed with a 12 pt black ink and your computer's default font. We have kept typed reports from students over the years and shared these with students to give a general idea of the format.

The biggest challenges for the students are deciding who will do what portion of the report and when to get together. The job a student elects to take on may depend on how convenient it is for each student or their family. Students may take on different responsibilities for this project; one person may choose to research, two people can type, one person may make a food dish, one person presents, etc. Occasionally, it is difficult for a group to get together due other obligations or if they live far away from other members of their group. An option for the students would be to communicate over the phone or e-mail each other the information researched.

Ultimately, the project will fall into place in an organized manner. Students take on different responsibilities and the project turns out great. This activity concludes a story from the reading text book called "Zlateh the Goat". The objective is to give the students exposure to a wide variety of cultural traditions and for students to work as a team in accomplishing a task. A few of the reports will include; Kwanza, Hanukkah, St. Lucy Day, Day of the Dead, Mardi Gras, and the Chinese New Year. Often boys and girls don't have the opportunity to get together with students they aren't friends with. This projects gives them a great deal of self confidence by taking on duties and responsibilities in order to complete the project. In the end, students are proud of their work and have learned a great deal about a culture or tradition which they previously may have not have known about.

Everything in this letter has been discussed in class with the students. Your child is aware of the project, its purpose, and due date. We hope we have answered any questions you may have about this project. If you have any further concerns, don't hesitate to call or e-mail, we will be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Kanger & Mrs. Clark