

GUES Pizzazz Prepares for Fall Season

Photo right (front l to r) Allyson Harlos, Alyria Roberts, (middle) Amelia Taylor, (back l to r) Reid Viner, Brenden Keys, and Amari Conley



Photo by Galen Holley



Photo by Galen Holley

Photo left (front l to r) Alyssa Winters, Meredith Meriwether, (middle l to r) Ella Brooke Horan, Alyssa Evans, Gracie Colbert, (back l to r) Sydney Allbritton, Dajnea Antoine, and Erika Smith

By Galen Holley
Staff Reporter

GSD fifth-graders are tightening their choreography and harmonizing their voices as the Pizzazz Show Choir gets set for its fall season. Twenty-three young singers and dancers are preparing for their first show on Veterans' Day, November 11, at Grenada Upper Elementary School.

According to Director Katie Hugley, the choir will pay tribute to the U.S. Armed Forces by performing a collection of patriotic standards, including "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "This Land Is Your Land."

As the weather cools and the holiday season approaches, rehearsals are becoming brisk, with, perhaps a slight sense of urgency, according to Hugley, but the young men and women of Pizzazz are game for the challenge.

"Our students are hardworking and dedicate themselves to countless hours of learning their parts outside of regular, school rehearsals," said Hugley.

Those parts include lively dance steps and choreography that aspire to musical theater as well as singing with an energy that gets a crowd tapping its feet.

Offstage involvement

Beyond the spotlight, Pizzazz is more than just a show. According to Hugley, it's a fellowship of bright, young people who excel in every aspect of campus life in the District. Talent is an important prerequisite, Hugley said, but so are excellent grades and stellar social behavior.

"Pizzazz goes out and performs in places like nursing homes," said Hugley. "Community building and outreach are part of the group's identity," Hugley said, "as is striving, in some way, to be ambassadors, or the smiling face of the Upper Elementary to the community."

Pizzazz will follow its November show with community outreach on December 1. The group will then perform in the annual Grenada Upper Elementary School Christmas Show, titled "The Big Chill," on December 3. Performances are at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. Pizzazz will be part of the Visions Christmas Program on December 10 and 11, at 7 p.m.

To learn more about Pizzazz visit the group's Facebook page.

Fiesta Time at the Kidzeum!

By Beth Muselwhite
Kidzeum Director

"Hola, Amigos" or "Hello Friends!" Students at Grenada Elementary School are "stepping into" the backdrop of a Mexican village to explore a mercado (market place) and an adobe (Mexican brick home), as they visit the first part of The Kidzeum's current exhibit.

The children are invited to take an imaginary journey south of the border to learn about the cultural attributes of our amigos (friends) in Mexico. The students are learning how they might pack their bags for Christmas with swimsuits, flipflops, shorts, and short sleeved shirts for the warm climate in Mexico.

As students walk by the adobe home they explore how Mexican homes are decorated and discover the different day-to-day items used inside la casa (the home). Some of the items students have found inside the adobe are a hammock, a pinata, a tortilla press, woven baskets, Mexican foods, a futbol, bright colored flowers, chili peppers, a guitar, morracas, a nativity, a Christmas tree, a serape (blanket), and a sombrero (hat).

D'maryian, a third grade student from Mrs. McKelroy's class, proclaimed that she has learned that both Mexico and America have a President. She also said that she noticed the flags of the two countries are different.

Jordyn stated that he saw a futbol as he walked by the adobe. He has learned that a soccer ball in Mexico is called a futbol, the main sport played in Mexico.

As children discover the unique landmarks and landforms of the country south of the United States, they learn about the pyramid ruins that have been left behind by the native Mayans and Aztecs of Mexico.

Through "hands-on" learning, the children enjoy experiencing a Mexican game called el balero (cup and ball toy). They explore the market place which is a central spot of any Mexican city or village. The students practice their Spanish as they count to ten and call out the colors of different market items. They try their hands at weaving to create baskets, blankets, jewelry, or hats for the market place.

Christmas is a fun, festive time in Mexico! For the second visit of this exhibit, the students will hear The Christ-



Photo by Beth Muselwhite

(l to r) Debbie Williams, Waleed Salameh, and Tekenya Walton study "Christmas in Mexico" at the Kidzeum.

mas Story as told around the world, and be able to represent a character from the story. Students will learn how many of the Mexican Christmas traditions like pinatas and posadas (inns) came from Old Spain where most people speak Spanish. A lot of these Christmas symbols from Mexico have traveled to other parts of the world where other people enjoy using them as part of their own Christmas celebrations. One of these traditional symbols is the poinsettia, native to Mexico.

Another Christmas symbol that we might enjoy on Thanksgiving Day is turkey. Turkey is eaten regularly in many parts of the world, and in Mexico it is a traditional part of the Christmas Eve dinner.

Chocolate is another Christmas tradition from Mexico! Students will discover how chocolate grows in tropical climates as a bean. We enjoy a favorite Christmas treat during the cold winter weather with hot chocolate. The children will find out that thanks to someone from Mexico, the sweetened chocolate drink tasted even better when it was served hot!

Finally, the students will get to taste a little of Mexico! The children will taste agua de sandia which translates to watermelon water. Mexicans love cool, refreshing, fruit flavored water with their meals.

The students will also be encouraged to participate in the Mexican hat dance around the brightly decorated 15' Christmas tree in The Kidzeum. The children will also be able to play various Mexican instruments just like a mariachi band might use to celebrate at a Mexican fiesta (party)!

The Kidzeum will celebrate grandparents with their annual "Open House for Grandparents" on Friday, December 11, 2015. All grandparents are invited to tour The Kidzeum with their grandchildren and discover how Christmas is celebrated in Mexico!

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