

THE FIRST OF MANY

Diversity Council Hosts First Diversity Week

The first Diversity Week in school history was held Oct. 18-22 with the theme, "Sharing our Stories and Celebrating Each Other." Diversity Council members planned and led the events. The week started off with an assembly, including performances from Onyx step team, choir, theater and teachers sharing stories of where they were from. Afterward, they participated in circles reflecting on the assembly. During Falcon Time Tuesday, students wrote poems to reflect on the week's theme. And to end the week, there was a Falcon Time town hall meeting where students, faculty and administrators shared stories of the struggles of growing up nonwhite in a predominantly white community. To end the week, students of various backgrounds organized a global gallery walk, including tables with symbols and information about their culture during third block. // Written by Selena Escutia

this is WHERE I'M FROM

Diversity Week Poem Emphasizes Sophomore's Past, Present

I am from white sand and coconuts
an ocean breeze that shakes the trees
clear water, full of life
and loud music and food with spice,
white snow and icy roads
stay inside, warm your toes
see your breath, leave your lungs,
a red nose, and reindeer puns,
the smell of a fire, cooking of fish
lots of spices, all go in one dish,
eat with your hands, no need for a fork,
are you still hungry? I'll make you some pork
I am from gunpowder and flashing lights
in the sky fireworks so bright
fourth of july day of independence
with my family I'm gonna spend it
salty long and curly hair,
brothers laugh and father stares
we all dance with a big smile,
everything we need within a mile,
from stars and stripes,
and loud guitar,
from ukulele and drumming hard
from the u s of a
the united states
and from micronesia
the island pohnpei
I am from tragedy, and heartache
from joy and smiles,
from the hospital bed, that I layed for a while
they played with my heart, eventually fixed it
my family was scared, mom told me dad missed it
now as I look back I saw he was there
my father right next to me holding me while I'm scared

surgery went well, and life's going great
no matter what I've got food on my plate
tuck in your jersey, tie up your cleats,
go out on that field boy, you gotta eat,
go be a dog, don't worry bout the score,
hit him a lil harder, make sure he is sore
get through that gap, take him down for a sack
stand over him screaming, the monster is back
don't lose control, gotta act like a pro
this is all you've got left, don't make it a show
I am from a nice school, and lots of friends
at home not much, but still follow the trends
we didn't have money, we struggled to make it,
I'm so thankful for family, my grandma for taking,
care of me and brothers and staying beside us
even through the trouble we were making
for holding us tight and not letting go
and buying us milk and oreos
For loving us dearly, protecting our hearts
Making us feel close even when we were apart.
I'm from a crazy uncle, he is so much fun,
he loves me as though I am also his son,
when nobody was there, he took me away,
and we would go fishing for a couple of days,
I'm from my dad I'm thankful for him,
for giving me this beautiful glowing brown skin,
and teaching me to forgive and forget,
for giving me brothers that I can protect.
I am from a city of lights, that shine so bright
k c m o
where the chiefs always rise
red and gold runs through my veins
pat mahomes trash? you must be insane

Leland Samuel, 10

wrapping IT UP

Highlights Of Events Held To Celebrate Diversity Week

monday
DEC.
18
ASSEMBLY



To begin the assembly, Diversity Council members junior Sophia Villavicencio and seniors Allison Loar and Anai Buenrostro discuss the inclusion of various backgrounds. Midperformance, freshman Jaidyn Keith, junior Mateo Frieson and sophomore Kadrian Barnett represent Onyx step team. In front of the audience, senior Tyray Ritchey, teacher Pamela Rohfling, sophomores Mathew Tilsworth and Tristen Centlivre present a theater act. The assembly was the start of the school's first-ever Diversity Week, meant to showcase the diversity represented in the school community. "It was great to be the start of something that will hopefully be an annual tradition," Loar said. // Photos by McKenna Armstrong, Humberto Bermudez and Fatima Abu

friday
DEC.
22
GALLERY WALK
& TOWN HALL



At the global gallery walk, sophomore Kyle Siler looks at a display representing Mexican heritage. At the Philippines display, juniors Sophia Villavicencio and Aubrey Williams and freshman Kimora Lansangan talk. In the town hall meeting, junior Jermaine Hicks shares the meaning of diversity to him. Both events were optional for students. "It was empowering, and it felt good that I was able to educate other students," Williams said. // Photos by Sam Mathena and McKenna Armstrong

IT'S THE things YOU DON'T SEE

Snippets of 'Where I'm From' Poems Shared



Ashley Dadzie, 10

"I am from my two
cousins where one
hugs and the other
teaches, both signs of
brotherly love."

"I am from spices
From delicious home
only menus."



Kiara Esquilin, 12

"I am from family, from
Bomba, an essential
expression of my
culture"

"I am from Puerto Rico,
arroz con gandules"