

Timber Lane Offers International Fun, Education with Upcoming Event

By Fernanda Ferreira

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One school, one event, many cultures. Timber Lane Elementary School is hosting an International Night on Friday, Feb. 18, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. to celebrate their diverse community.

"The event was very well attended [in the past]," Principal James Quinn said. "It's a community-oriented school, and these events are usually well attended."

The principal expects from 200 to 300 people to attend the event. International Night is free and open to the Timber Lane's family and community.

"We have activities and performances that are representative of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe," said Yvette Wedderburn Bomersheim, one of the parents on the International Planning Committee. "This year we are featuring South Indian dance, jump roping and merengue and salsa dancing demonstrations along with different featured countries. We are excited about the crafts we have in store for the kids including maracas making, face painting, origami making and mask making,"

International Night is sponsored by Timber Lane Parents Teachers Association (PTA). The association started planning the event early December 2010.

"The committee is comprised of four individuals, but this event could not be successful without the participation of many," Bomersheim said.

Parents that are not involved in the committee still have the chance to participate in the event.

"Parents will bring a different dish, from many different countries that represent something meaningful to them for the Taste of Timber Lane [food tasting]," Quinn said.

The principal pointed to the Taste of Timber Lane as one of the public's favorite events of the annual affair. Aside from the traditional food tasting, the event will host the annual Timber Lane spelling bee, a student art exhibition, and a fashion show with children modeling clothes from various countries.

The PTA is bringing new performers to the school such as Salangai Arts group and Westlawn Elementary School jump rope group. Culture tables featuring the countries of Mongolia, Azerbaijan, China and Mauritania will be set up. Peace Corps volunteers will be talking about their experience overseas in those countries.

"Our goal was to try and highlight and expose our community to cultures that they are less familiar with," said Bomersheim.

Visitors will receive a passport in the beginning of the event to get stamps at every station they visited. Timber Lane Elementary School is located at 2737 West St., Falls Church. For more information, call 703-206-5300.

The event will be featuring the following:

- Salangai Arts performance, a South Indian classical dance school
- Westlawn Elementary School jump rope group performance
- The Taste of Timber Lane food tasting. Parents will bring ethnic dishes to share. They also will be selling pizza and water in the cafeteria.
- Culture tables featuring the countries of Mongolia, Azerbaijan, China, Mauritania. Peace Corps volunteers will be talking about their experience overseas in those countries.
- Student fashion show, parents will provide ethnic outfits for the students.
- Salsa and merengue teacher.
- Timber Lane's Spelling Bee.
- Violinists from Longfellow Middle School will perform during the food tasting.
- Timber Lane art show featuring children's art work on display throughout the halls.
- Crafts, origami, music from different cultures, and face painting.
- One of Timber Lane's 4th graders will demonstrate and play the Bolivian charango, a musical instrument