

News Release: PGCPS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) celebrates events that showcase the history of Latinos, while also honoring their contributions to America in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

44th Fiesta DC: Great By Choice, Celebrating Our Diversity/ Excelencia por Elección, Celebrando Nuestra Diversidad, Constitution Ave, Washington DC

PGCPS will join Fiesta DC, Inc. and representatives from 48 cultural groups in the Washington, D.C. area as they celebrate its 44th year on Saturday, September 19, from 1:30 -5:30 p.m. This is the largest Latino Festival in the region— attracting over 200,000 participants. Staff from PGCPS Human Resources Outreach team, the Office of Diversity on Latino/Affairs, and High Point High School’s Band along with students, families and staff will join in the parade.

34th Prince George’s County Hispanic Festival, Lane Manor Park

PGCPS will also participate in the county’s 34th Annual Hispanic Festival on Sunday, September 20 at Lane Manor Park. Organized by Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation, the festival is from noon to 6:00 p.m. and will include live entertainment, music, dancing, ethnic foods, arts and crafts, and more. PGCPS representatives from Human Resources, the Office of Family and Community Engagement, the Office of Interpreting and Translation, and the Office of Diversity on Latino/Affairs will engage with the community, share information and provide resources about the school system. PGCPS will give away backpacks, dual-language children’s books, and other items, on a first come, first serve basis.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s Ready to Lead Program

Students from four PGCPS high schools—Crossland, DuVal, Northwestern and Parkdale— will attend the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s (CHCI) “Ready to Lead” program. On Tuesday, October 6, PGCPS students will join other students across the region for an intensive one-day program designed to provide Latino high school students in grades 9 and 10 with the tools and training necessary to prepare for college. Students will also participate in a mentoring session, where they will hear from local Latino professionals and college students about their journey to success and why completing high school and pursuing a college education is attainable.

Hispanic College Fair

The National Hispanic College Fair for PGCPS students is on Thursday, October 29 at Prince George’s Community College. Latino students in grades 11 and 12 from across the county will participate in the fair. The event is free and will provide students with access to college and university representatives from all over the United States. This annual program was held for the first time in Prince George’s County in the

fall of 2014 in order to accommodate the large and growing Latino population in the county.

In addition to systemic celebrations throughout the month, several schools have organized events to honor Hispanic heritage. Please see events below. Note: Events will be updated on a weekly basis.

Date	Time	School	Activity
9/15-10/15	Throughout the day	Martin Luther King MS 4545 Ammendale Road Beltsville, Maryland	<p>Hispanic cultural display in the media center.</p> <p>Morning announcements. Students will listen to selected announcements about the contributions of famous Latinos via the school's TV studio.</p> <p>Classroom assignments. Students in various classes will read poetry and complete arts and crafts activities.</p> <p>Luncheon. The cafeteria staff will prepare a delicious authentic Mexican luncheon</p> <p>School assembly. Guest performer from the Washington Performing Arts Center will entertain and educate students. The date is forthcoming.</p>

10/6	6:00 p.m.	Glassmanor ES 1011 Marcy Avenue Oxon Hill, MD	<p>Storytelling: Quinceañera Tradition. A group of students will sing a birthday song in English and Spanish, and "the piñata."</p> <p>Cooking demonstration. A parent will teach attendees how to make a pupusa. Families will also bring traditional foods to share.</p> <p>Classroom assignments. Students will draw flags of Spanish speaking countries, where Spanish is the official language. Students will also learn about the accomplishments of many important Hispanic-Americans whose contributions have helped in guiding and shaping history.</p> <p>Morning announcements. Announcements will teach students Spanish words, numbers, phrases, and more.</p> <p>Outreach. Fifth and sixth grade students will write a letter to ESOL students encouraging them to keep learning English and offering their friendship so they can learn both languages.</p>
10/9	10:00 a.m. & 1:30-3:00 p.m.	Capitol Heights ES 601 Suffolk Avenue Capitol Heights, MD	<p>Morning celebration. Students will dance and sing to celebrate the month.</p> <p>Guest speaker. Local Spanish writer, Sonia Salinas will read her two children books to students in PreK-grade 2.</p> <p>Performance. Spanish/Children Theater Teatro de La Luna.</p>
10/13	6:00 p.m.	Overlook Spanish Immersion 3298 Curtis Drive Temple Hills, MD	<p>Student and teacher performances. Students and teachers will learn about various Hispanic cultures through performance.</p>

10/15	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Evening High School 7000 Adelphi Road Hyattsville, MD	Food and performance. Students will enjoy music, food, arts display, and student readings. A dance performance by a Ballet Folklorico Mexicano/Maxican Aztec Dance is scheduled.
10/15	1:10 p.m.	Ridgecrest ES 6120 Riggs Road Hyattsville, MD	Classroom assignment. Students in Head Start through grade six will learn about Honduras, Mexico, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Students will also create hats, flags and instruments to wear in the parade.
9/21-10/15	Throughout the day	Rosa L. Parks ES 6111 Ager Road Hyattsville, MD	School assignment. Each grade level will learn about one Hispanic country. Classes will create a paper tree on the wall in their hallway. The trees will include flags, facts, pictures, and cultural items. <i>September 21-October 15</i> Scavenger Hunt. Staff will create scavenger hunt questions to post it in the building. Classes will participate in the scavenger hunt. <i>September 21-October 15</i> Parent engagement. Parents will volunteer to assist primary grade students with tortilla making and dance lessons. They will also assist upper grade students with a country, flag, and map matching activity. <i>October 15</i>
10/28	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Hyattsville ES 5311 43rd Avenue Hyattsville, MD	International night. A night of delicious food, music, folklore dancing, and a traditional attire parade.