



Ethnic Dance Connection

Dancing As A Second Language!

Media Release

Students Explore America's Ethnic Heritage

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade students of the Chaney Monge School in Crest Hill, Illinois (near Joliet) are preparing to present a series of ethnic folk dances for the school's **Ethnic Dance Assembly** on Friday morning February 20, 2015 at 9:00am. The 7th and 8th graders will repeat these performances at the school's **Multi-Cultural Fair** that runs on Saturday February 21, 2015 from 10:00am until 1:00pm.

The **Multi-cultural Fair** is the culmination of collaborative research projects where teams of students use resources that include the world-wide-web, libraries, books, magazines, newspapers and family archives to create 50+ booths displaying significant cultural, social, geographic, economic and political information about many of the world's countries and ethnic groups. The Fair is free and open to the public and will feature a variety of hands-on activities for adults and children.

The **Ethnic Dance Assembly** performances are the outcomes of this unique program that provides students with multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary learning experiences, using heritage dances of America's various ethnic groups as a delivery mechanism. The dance program goes beyond traditional dance education for its own sake, as it combines dance with experiential education and healthy exercise and supplements classroom learning across multiple disciplines including history, geography, social studies, mathematics, art, music, health, nutrition and physical education. Students also have the opportunity to provide school and community service by performing what they've learned for school and neighborhood events, retirement communities, etc.

1. Ethnic Dance Week Instruction Classes **Tue-Wed-Thu, Feb 17-19**, 8:57am - 2:09pm
2. Ethnic Dance Week Assembly - Student Performance, **Fri Feb 20**, 9:00am – 10:24am
3. Ethnic Dance Week Instruction Classes **Fri, Feb 20**, 10:27am - 11:54am
4. Chaney Monge Multi-Cultural Fair - Student Performance, **Sat Feb 21**, 10:00am-1:00pm

All events are open to the media. The Assembly and Multi-Cultural Fair are open to the public.

To view videos of previous student dance performances: www.ethnicdance.org/videos

For more information about Ethnic Dance Programs contact:

Paul Collins, Director, Ethnic Dance Connection, (847)-846-8139, paul.collins@ethnicdance.org.

For more information about the Multi-Cultural Fair contact:

Jackie Hall (Principal), Chaney Monge School, 400 Elsie Ave, Crest, Hill, IL 60423, (815)-722-6673, jacelynnhall@gmail.com. Contact the principal to arrange for student and teacher interviews.

Thank You,

Paul Collins
Ethnic Dance Connection

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Ethnic Dance Connection provides schools and communities with developmental learning experiences using the medium of ethnic dance to deliver memorable and enriching programs that reach far beyond the scope of traditional dance education - programs that contribute to creativity, cultural awareness, social and physical development and personal and professional growth.

Ethnic Dance Connection – P O Box 25548 – Chicago, IL 60625

Tel: (847)-846-8139 - Fax: (847)-777-0574

www.ethnicdance.org – paul.collins@ethnicdance.org

www.facebook.com/groups/ethnicdanceconnection (group) – www.facebook.com/ethnicdanceconnection (fan page)



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Dancing the Greek "Syrtaki"



Building the "Wall of Knowledge"

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Students and audience dancing to “I Love a Rainy Night”



Visiting booths at the “Multi-Cultural Fair”

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