



Ethnic Dance Connection

Dancing As A Second Language!

Media Release

Students Explore America's Ethnic Heritage

The students of the Spring Hill Middle School in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin will be preparing to present a series of ethnic folk dances for the school's annual **Ethnic Dance Performance and Recognition Awards Assembly** on Friday afternoon February 26, 2016 at 1:15pm.

The Spring Hill Middle School **Ethnic Dance Assembly** performances are the outcomes of the "**Spring Hill Middle School Ethnic Dance Week**" a 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. This 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 (most of whom have had little or no previous dance experience) will provide a service to the school and community by performing what they've learned for the school assembly. They also have the potential for repeating this program for other civic and community events, retirement communities, etc.

As part of their learning of ethnic dances, students will also engage in research projects using resources that include the world-wide-web, libraries, books, magazines, newspapers and family archives to create a "Wall of Knowledge" that is a collection of significant cultural, social, geographic, economic and political information about many of the world's countries and ethnic groups.

The **Assembly** is free and is **open to the public** and will feature an option for family members and other audience members to join in at the end.

The "**Spring Hill Middle School Ethnic Dance Week**" is funded by a generous grant from the Wisconsin Dells Art Association.

All events are open to the media.

1. Ethnic Dance Week Instruction Classes (Elementary) **Mon-Fri, Feb 22-26**, 7:55am - 10:05am
2. Ethnic Dance Week Instruction Classes (Elementary) **Mon-Fri, Feb 22-26**, 11:07am - 12:30pm
3. Awards and Ethnic Dance Assembly - Student Performances, **Fri Feb 26**, 1:30pm – 3:15pm

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

For more information about Spring Hill Middle School contact:

Hugh Gaston, Principal: Spring Hill Middle School, 300 Vine St, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965, (608)-253-2467 ext 2193, hgaston@sdwd.k12.wi.us. Contact the principal to arrange for student and teacher interviews.

For more information about Ethnic Dance Programs contact:

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

– 30 –

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 – pcollins@ethnicdance.org

Group: www.facebook.com/groups/ethnicdanceconnection – FanPage: www.facebook.com/ethnicdanceconnection



Ethnic Dance Connection

Dancing As A Second Language!



Dancing "Arap" from Macedonia



Building the "Wall of Knowledge"

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

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

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

www.ethnicdance.org – pcollins@ethnicdance.org

Group: www.facebook.com/groups/ethnicdanceconnection – FanPage: www.facebook.com/ethnicdanceconnection



Ethnic Dance Connection

Dancing As A Second Language!



Dancing “Hoe Ana Te Vaka” from Raratonga Island (Polynesia)



Dancing “Nanchu Soran Bushi” from Japan

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

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

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

www.ethnicdance.org – pcollins@ethnicdance.org

Group: www.facebook.com/groups/ethnicdanceconnection – FanPage: www.facebook.com/ethnicdanceconnection



Ethnic Dance Connection

Dancing As A Second Language!



Dancing “Hammerschmiedsgeselln” from Germany



Dancing “Siroon Agcheek” from Armenia

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

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

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

www.ethnicdance.org – pcollins@ethnicdance.org

Group: www.facebook.com/groups/ethnicdanceconnection – FanPage: www.facebook.com/ethnicdanceconnection