



The Treatment and  
Learning Centers  
**TLC**

*a family of services where caring comes first*

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## **KTS Students Commemorate Diversity with *Celebration of Nations***

Rockville, MD—[TLC—The Treatment and Learning Centers](http://www.ttlc.org) announced today students and staff of TLC's [Katherine Thomas School](http://www.ttlc.org) (KTS) held their second "Celebration of Nations on March 6," a variety of cross-curricular events offering students the opportunity to explore and celebrate the diversity of their school, community, country and their world. KTS is an independent day school for students in preschool through twelfth grade with moderate to severe language and learning disabilities and high-functioning autism.

"Through the arts, we discover students' hidden talents. As we learn about each other at KTS through the arts, we also better appreciate and understand the cultures of the world," said **Laura Wilson**, Special Education Teacher at KTS, who organized the event with the help of the KTS Fine Arts Committee.

Students and their guests traveled as "tourists" to seven elaborately decorated classrooms representing Africa, Mexico, Australia, the Middle East and Greece, the United States, France and Japan. In each classroom, students sampled cuisine from each region and shared art, games, activities, maps, videos, slide shows, clothing, books, information about each area and had their "passports" stamped. Second grader Moshe said, "I liked getting my passport stamped. I got a stamp for Israel!"

KTS middle school students presented American, Asian, and African folk tales and a skit called, "Let Freedom Ring," in the KTS black box theater, which was followed by a music and dance program for guests performed by lower and middle school students in the gym led by physical education teacher **Wendy Epstein** and music teacher **Amy Gardiner**.

The lively show included pieces from Mexico, Japan, France, Africa, the Middle East, and the United States. Students sang songs in Spanish, Japanese and French and performed traditional folk dances. In the African performance, students enjoyed a tribute to animals, which included singing, drumming, and animal interpretations of a giraffe, lion, gorilla, donkey, cobra and cheetah.

KTS staff values the opportunity to embrace cultural diversity of staff and students through the *Celebration of Nations* and thanks our wonderful community of supporters who helped make this event possible.

### **About TLC**

[TLC—The Treatment and Learning Centers](http://www.ttlc.org), located in Rockville, Md., improves lives and expands possibilities for individuals with special needs. Celebrating over 58 years of service to the community in 2009, TLC is committed to integrity and excellence in our care and strives to assist all, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information visit [www.ttlc.org](http://www.ttlc.org).

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