



# NEWSLETTER

## Learning the Culture of Heaven

This week has been a busy one as our school celebrated Cultural Week. All the teachers and students worked hard each day to prepare their assigned tasks and presentations. The world is divided into continents, and within each continent, there are many countries—and even within a single country, different cultures can coexist. While culture and religion are not always identical, they are often inseparable companions. Sadly, throughout history and even today, differences in culture have led people to push one another away, to fight, and to draw borders.

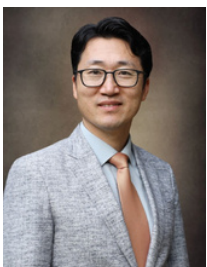
One of the main purposes of holding Cultural Week at our school is to help students understand and accept the beauty of cultural diversity. We want them to grow up with hearts that respect and coexist peacefully with people from different backgrounds. This, I believe, is largely about the spirit or atmosphere of a community. When most members of a society respect and embrace different cultures, people live together without prejudice or hostility. But when someone begins to exalt their own culture as superior and looks down on others, conflict—even bloodshed—can follow.

The Bible gave many teachings that were far ahead of their time. One of the greatest is found in Galatians 3:28: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Two thousand years ago, the hostility and prejudice Jews held against Greeks were so intense that it’s hard to find a modern comparison. The relationship between masters and slaves was far more extreme than anything we can imagine in today’s democratic world. Even the relationship between men and women was vastly unequal—women were often regarded as property. Yet the teaching that all are one in Christ was an idea centuries ahead of its time.

We must remember that this same truth applies to culture. Culture arises from the environment and geography where people live. If we had been born and raised in their place, we would likely share the same customs and way of life. Therefore, no culture is inherently better or worse, higher or lower. We must resist the temptation to judge or grade cultures based on our own standards. In God’s eyes, we are all one.

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we hold a General Conference every five years in a major world city. It includes two weekends, and on the final Sabbath, delegates from all over the world wear their traditional attire and gather in a stadium. It is a breathtaking sight—tens of thousands of people walking together, each expressing their cultural and ethnic heritage through beautiful, colorful garments. They admire one another’s clothing, take pictures together, and celebrate unity in diversity. I have attended three such gatherings, and each time, I felt as though I was witnessing a glimpse of heaven—where people from every nation and culture will gather together before God’s throne. In heaven, will it matter what country we came from, what culture we belonged to, whether we ate with chopsticks or forks, or whether our staple food was rice or bread? Of course not.

As we conclude this Cultural Week, I hope that all our parents, students, and teachers who prepared and participated have learned a little more about the culture of heaven—a culture where everyone respects, cherishes, and accepts one another just as they are.



**Yeon Ho Song**  
Principal



# Culture Week



**Monday - Games & Cultural Sports** - Left to right: Tsara Yematatu from Zimbabwe; Pato Pato Ganzo from Peru; Peteca from Brazil; Handball from Europe; and Badminton from Asia.



**Tuesday - Songs & Dances** - Left to right: Kindergarten performing "Waka Waka" from Africa; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades performing "Kookaburra" from Australia; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades performing "Mi Encanto" from Colombia; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> performing a Waltz from Europe; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> boys playing "Bahay Kubo" from the Philippines and the girls performing "Tangata Huru" from the Pacific Islands.



**Wednesday - Arts & Crafts** - Left to right: Student's completed passport; Sushi and lamp crafts from Asia; Students building and colouring towers from Europe; Students creating carnival masks from South America; Students creating dot paintings from Australia; Students creating hand drums from Africa.



*But we are citizens of*  
**HEAVEN,**

where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20



**Thursday - Country Stories & Skits** - Left to right: Skit from Africa from Kindergarten; Stories from Australia from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; Skit from South America from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Skit from Europe from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade; Skit from Asia from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



**October Birthdays**

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Rhea Lei Raymond</b> | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Jebon Jinna</b>      | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Rowan Sakisat</b>    | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Deighton Muña</b>    | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Owen Li</b>          | <b>26</b> |
| <b>Alan Yu</b>          | <b>27</b> |
| <b>Castiel Albert</b>   | <b>27</b> |



**Friday - Fashion Show** - Left to right: Students modeling outfits from their various cultures.



# Dates to Know

## Monday, October 13

No School

Commonwealth Cultural Day

(Schedule Changed from Oct. 28 to Oct. 22)

## Wednesday, October 22

Pre-Kinder Parent Teacher Conference

(Schedule Changed from Oct. 20 to Oct. 23)

## Thursday, October 23

Elementary Parent Teacher Conference

(Early pick up 12:30 pm. No After School.)

## October 27 to 31

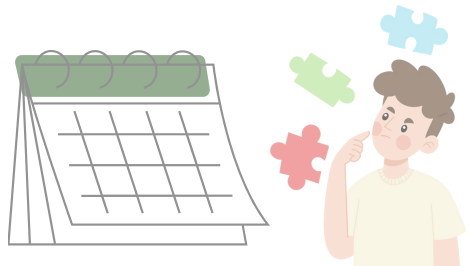
Spiritual Emphasis Week

## Wednesday, October 29

Preschool Parent Teacher Conference

## Thursday, October 30

Toddler Parent Teacher Conference



FOLLOW US



Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School



saipansdaschool



Saipan SDA School



www.saipansdaschool.org



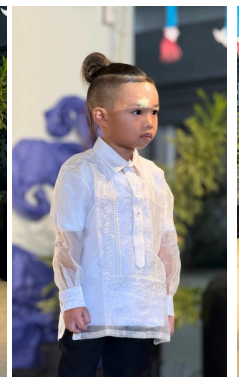
# Child Development Center



**Toddlers** – Left to right: Participating in the Cultural Week Fashion Show with their cultural outfits.



**Preschool** – Performing “He Mele No Lilo” for their cultural dance presentation and participating in the fashion show with their cultural outfits.



**Pre-Kinder** – Performing “Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride” for their cultural dance presentation and modeling their cultural attire for Friday’s fashion show.