

## A Celebration of Culture and Community

By Erin Pant

The rich diversity of Saint Peter's community was on display at the school's fourth annual International Night on January 31, 2020. More than 400 attendees enjoyed an evening of delicious food, informative displays, hands-on demonstrations, and beautiful performances representing different countries around the world. Families hosted tables that proudly showcased a specific country. Displays featured country information, flags, photographs, artwork, traditional artifacts, and cuisine. Countries represented included; Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Haiti, Italy, Ireland, India, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, South Korea and the United States. Attendees received paper passports and were able to collect stamps as they visited each country display. Throughout the event, special demonstrations took place including an Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Students also had an opportunity to receive Nigerian henna hand tattoos, try on native clothes from Peru, make a Filipino Christmas parol, receive an introduction to the Korean alphabet, and learn how water dikes function in the Netherlands.



“International Night has become one of the most popular events of the year, and for good reason,” said Mrs. Cocozzella, Saint Peter's Principal. “It's an incredible opportunity for families to share their unique cultures while celebrating unity as one school community.”

The evening culminated with music and dance performances. Mr. Nguyen, Saint Peter's music teacher, opened the performances with a rousing rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner. Next, a group of students performed a traditional song and dance from the Philippines, and finally, parent volunteers performed two Peruvian dances including an elegant Marinera dance.

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