

# A Celebration of All Cultures

By: Rosemary Watson, Principal, St. Rita School



St. Rita's School celebrates its multiculturalism. One of the ways the school experiences its many ethnicities is through its annual Multicultural Food Tasting, this year held in November. This fall, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades teamed up to sponsor the event which was a great success raising over \$300 for the Missions – a fitting organization to receive these funds since the Mission Office supports people in need all over the world and in many different cultures.



Every class enjoyed the Food Tasting. Each member of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes prepared a different dish based on the culture they researched. After studying the country and the customs, the students cooked and displayed the food items for the other classes to sample. The many different types of food represented over 30 countries. Some of the items included "Perfect Potatoes" from Peru, Brazilian coffee cake, banana fritters and lumpia from the Philippines, Sherpa popcorn from Nepal, ceviche and aqua de Jamaica from Mexico, baked bananas from Africa, Mohiko from Japan, tzatziki from Greece, to name a few of the items. "Tastes" were sold for \$.25 each, and all of the students, teachers, and visitors sampled the food during their recess times. The auditorium was filled with students who wanted to taste the different treats from around the world.

This Multicultural Food Tasting gave students at St. Rita's School the opportunity to eat something that they normally would not eat or have available to them. This helped students understand, respect, and appreciate other cultures by trying their foods, learning about the various cultures and where those countries are located. The students researched the culture and the country, looked in specialized cookbooks for the recipes, and prepared the various foods they chose.

Thanks to Ms. Amber Johnson, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and Mrs. Laura LacKamp, 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and their classes, St. Rita's School Multicultural Food Tasting was a great success.

