

**Celebrating Our Culture
Through Our Families' Journeys**

Survey Report

**Kennedy Junior High School
School Family Community Partnership**

December, 2014

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OVERVIEW

What is School Family Community Partnership (SFCP)?

SFCP consists of staff and parent volunteers working together to provide activities for students, families and community members for the purpose of enriching the students' experiences and supporting each school improvement plan.

There are many reasons for developing school, family and community partnerships. They can improve school programs and school climate, provide family services and support, increase parents' skills and leadership, connect families with others in the school and in the community and help teachers with their work. However, the main reason to create such partnerships is to help all youngsters succeed in school and in later life. When parents, teachers, students, and others view one another as partners in education, a caring community forms around students and begins its work.

For nearly two decades, District 203 partnered with Dr. Joyce Epstein at the National Network of Partnership Schools sharing research and best practices around a model designed to leverage school/family/community resources to ensure the best outcomes for all children in our schools.

Why did Kennedy SFCP focus on cultural diversity and conduct this cultural survey?

In September 2014, Kennedy SFCP was asked to collaborate with the Kennedy community—students, staff and parents—to create a cultural display in the school front entry vestibule. The display purpose would be to welcome, educate, and celebrate the variety of cultures that comprise the Kennedy community.

At the same time, Kennedy staff members were focusing on culturally responsive practices in the classroom. This prompted SFCP parents to begin discussing the potential of planning a multicultural and/or diversity event. Upon convening for an SFCP brainstorming meeting in October, the committee determined that gathering cultural data specific to Kennedy would be necessary to plan an event. As a result, the survey was created to learn more about our Kennedy community.

The Survey

In December 2014, approximately 50% of all KJHS students (exactly 500 student respondents) as well as 5 KJHS staff members voluntarily participated in this survey designed to gather cultural data. Parents had received the survey via email to discuss its completion with students. Social science teachers offered students the opportunity to complete surveys in class. This report details the survey itself, as seen below, as well as the valuable data collected and compiled by parent members of Kennedy's SFCP. This report was neither conducted nor compiled by a professional service but rather Kennedy SFCP and parent volunteers.

**Kennedy Junior High School
School Family Community Partnership
Celebrating Our Culture Through Our Families' Journeys**

The Kennedy School Family Partnership is looking to increase our community's awareness of the variety of cultures that make up our school through this survey. Responses will help us identify and promote the diversity of our students and staff and get our community to better understand its members. Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary; if there is nothing you would like to share at this time, feel free to leave portions or the entire document blank.

Culture can be defined as the unique combination of a particular group of people that is formed by common values, language, beliefs, traditions, customs, etc. that give that culture its identity.

1. Does your family identify with one or more cultures from outside of the United States? If so, please list them below.
(For example, Mr. Valek's ancestors were from Poland, Russia, and Slovakia.)

2. Does your family identify with any region of the United States other than our present community? If so, please list below.
(For example, though Mr. Valek grew up in Naperville, most of his relatives are from either North Central Wisconsin or the Gage Park neighborhood in Chicago.)

3. Does your family have any unique aspects that make it distinct? If so, please identify below. These could include:

- Language _____
- Food _____
- Clothing _____
- Environmental Factors _____
- Entertainment _____
- Architecture _____
- Symbols of Family Pride _____
- Religion _____
- Sports _____
- Values _____
- Anything else that makes your family's culture unique _____

COUNTRIES, REGIONS BY CONTINENT

Students and staff were asked if their families identify with one or more cultures from outside of the United States. If so, respondents were asked to list those countries or cultures.

Kennedy students and staff reported their families identify with 84 countries across 6 continents.

Africa

Ethiopia
Guinea-Bissau
South Africa

Asia

Cambodia
China (Nanjing, Guangzhou, Sichuan, Shanghai, Fuzhou, Chongqing)
Hong Kong
India (Kolkata, Dehli/New Dehli, Tamilnadu/Chennai, Kerela, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh/Indore, Mumbai/Bombay, Pune)
Indonesia
Iraq
Israel
Japan (Ashikaga)
Korea North
Korea South
Lebanon
Mongolia
Pakistan
Palestine
Persia
Philippines
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Taiwan, Republic of China
U.A.E. (United Arab Emirates)
Yemen

Australia

Australia

Europe

Albania
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bulgaria
Czechoslovakia
Czech Republic
Denmark
England (Balham, London)
Finland

Europe (cont.)

France (Limousin)
Germany (Berlin)
Great Britain
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania (Kaunas, Vilnius)
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Prussia
Romania
Russia
Scandinavia
Scotland
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Soviet Union (now Russia / Belarus)
Spain
Sweden (Stockholm)
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom (Englands, Scotland, Wales)
Yugoslavia (modern-day Croatia)

North America

Canada (French-Canada, Vancouver)
Cuba
Guatemala
Jamaica
Mexico (Gamala)
Puerto Rico
United States

South America

Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Uruguay
Venezuela

U.S. STATES, CITIES, TOWNS

Students and staff were asked if their families identify with any region of the United States other than our present community. If so, respondents were asked to list those regions.

Kennedy students and staff reported their families identify with 46 U.S. states.

No affiliations were reported for Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Vermont.

<u>State</u>	<u>(Cities, Towns)</u>
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arizona	(Scottsdale, Tuscon)
Arkansas	(Hickory Hills)
California	(Los Angeles, Monterey, Newport Beach, San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose)
Colorado	(Denver)
Connecticut	
Delaware	
Florida	(Clearwater, Naples, Orlando, Vera Beach)
Georgia	(Atlanta)
Hawaii	
Idaho	(Boise)
Illinois	(*71 Illinois areas were reported. See separate page.)
Indiana	(Indianapolis, Kokomo, Lafayette)
Iowa	(Des Moines, Shell Rock)
Kansas	
Kentucky	(Ashland, Louisville)
Louisiana	
Maine	(Bangor)
Maryland	(Baltimore)
Massachusetts	(Boston, Amherst)
Michigan	(Detroit, Kalamazoo)
Minnesota	(Plymouth, St. Paul)
Mississippi	
Missouri	(St. Louis)
Nebraska	(Omaha)
Nevada	(Carson City, Las Vegas)
New Jersey	(Morristown, Trenton)
New Mexico	
New York	(Buffalo, Corinth, Long Island, New York City, Niagara Falls, Syracuse)
North Carolina	
Ohio	(Canton, Cincinnati, Colombia, Columbus, Dayton, Oxford, Lorain, Middletown)
Oklahoma	(Oklahoma City)
Oregon	
Pennsylvania	(Philadelphia, Pittsburgh)
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Texas	(Austin, Dallas, Houston, Plano)
Utah	
Virginia	
Washington	(Seattle)
Washington, DC	
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	(Green Bay, Lacrosse, Madison, Manitowoc, Milwaukee)
Wyoming	

ILLINOIS CITIES, TOWNS & NEIGHBORHOODS

Kennedy students and staff reported family affiliations in 71 Illinois cities, towns and neighborhoods.

Arlington Heights	Lisle
Aurora	Lombard
Barrington	Melrose Park
Batavia	Moline
Berwyn	Monmouth
Bolingbrook	Morris
Broadview	Naperville
Burbank	Oak Lawn
Carbondale	Oak Park
Carol Stream	Orland Park
Champaign	Oswego
Charleston	Ottawa
Chicago	Palatine
Chicago Austin neighborhood	Park Ridge
Chicago Gage Park neighborhood	Peoria
Chicago West side	Peru
Chicago Heights	Pilsin
Crystal Lake	Plainfield
Decatur	Riverside
Deerfield	Rockford
Downers Grove	Rockton
Elgin	Schaumburg
Elmhurst	Schiller Park
Elmwood	Shorewood
Frankfort	Streamwood
Franklin Park	Vernon Hills
Glen Ellyn	Villa Park
Glendale Heights	Warrenville
Glenview	Washington
Hanover Park	Waterloo
Hinsdale	Wheaton
Indian Head Park	Wilmette
Joliet	Winfield
Kankakee	Woodridge
Lemont	Woodstock

LANGUAGES

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding languages that make their families distinct.

Respondents reported a total of 60 languages and regional dialects. In addition to English, the most frequent languages identified were Chinese (55), Spanish (44), Hindi (40), Mandarin Chinese (17), Polish (11), Urdu (11), German (10), Cantonese (8), Russian (8), Arabic (7), Greek (7), Italian (7), Tamil (7), Lithuanian (7), Gujarati (6), Hebrew (6), Marathi (5), Swedish (5), Telegu (5), Malayalam (4), and Taiwanese (4). Remaining languages had 3 or fewer responses.

Languages / Regional Dialects

Albanian	German	Romanian
American	Greek	Russian
Ancient Greek	Gujarati	Saurashtra
Arabic	Hebrew	Serbian
Assyrian	Hindi	Shanghaiense
Bengali	Italian	Slovak
Bulgarian	Japanese	South Korean
Canadian	Kannada	Spanish
Cantonese	Korean	Swedish
Chicago	Latin	Swiss-German
Chinese	Lithuanian	Tagalog
"Chinglish"	Malayalam	Taiwanese
Croatian	Mandarin	Tamil
Czech	Marathi	Telugu
Danjabi	New York	Texan
Dutch	Pashto	Tigoluge
Filipino	Polish	Udon
Finnish	Portuguese	Urdu
French	Puerto Rican	Welsh
Gaelic	Punjabi	Yiddish words

FOODS

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding foods that make their families distinct.

Respondents reported 33 foods by nationality, 11 foods by type or restaurant, and over 150 foods by name. The most popular foods by nationality are Chinese (41), Indian (25) American (22), Italian, Polish (8) and Mexican (6). The most popular individual foods identified were rice (30), pasta (12), curries (10), pizza (8), chicken (6) and roti (6). All remaining foods were identified by 5 or fewer respondents.

Foods by Nationality

American
 American Chinese
 American South
 Arabic Cooking
 Asian
 Azerbaijani
 Chinese
 Colombian
 Croatian
 Czech Bohemian
 Czech/American
 English
 Filipino
 German
 Greek
 Indian
 Irish
 Israeli
 Italian
 Japanese
 Jewish
 Korean
 Lithuanian
 Mexican
 Middle Eastern
 Peruvian
 Polish
 Puerto Rican

Foods by Nationality (cont.)

Romanian
 Russian
 Soul
 South Indian
 Spanish
 Swedish

Food by Type or Restaurant

Fast foods
 Health foods
 Home cooking
 Joy Yee
 Kosher food
 McDonald's
 Meats with sauce
 NO BEEF
 No pork
 Pepe's Mexican
 Vegetarian

Foods by Name

Adobo - Filipino
 Aloo tikki
 Baba Ghanoush
 Barbecue
 Bean paste sweets
 Beans...lots of beans
 Beef

Foods by Name (cont.)

Beef noodles
 Bicol Express
 Biryani
 Borscht
 Brasa
 Bratwurst
 Brisket
 Bunsit
 Butter Chicken
 Cake
 Caviar
 Ceviche
 Challah
 Chapati
 Chatrou
 Chawal
 Chicken
 Chicken Biriyani
 Chicken feet
 Chinese noodles
 Chinese rice
 Cooked veggies
 Corn beef & Cabbage
 Corned beef
 Cornish hens
 Crepes
 Crispy pata

Foods by Name (continued)

Crush	Lentils	Rice, rice soup, lettuce, meat
Curries	Long spaghetti	Risalamande for Christmas
Daal Baath	Malfouf	Roasted duck
Dal/dahl	Mapo tofu	Roasted seaweed
Dosa/dosai	Mashed potatoes	Roti (bread)
Draniki	Matzoh	Russian dumplings
Duck	Meat	Sabji
Dumpling	Mooncake	Sambar
Dutch cheese (Edam & Gouda)	Naan	Sauerkraut soup
Enchiladas	Naan and mixed vegetables	Sausages
Falafel	Noodles	Schnitzel
Fish	Noodles & vegetables	Sea Salt Ice Cream
Flat breads	Pancit	Seafood
Flour tortilla	Paneer tika	Seaweed
French sandwiches	Paratha	Sesame balls
Fried chicken	Pasta	Shark fin soup
Fried rice	Pie	Shepherd's pie
Frog legs	Pierogies	Sopita
Gel (Turkish Delight)	Pigs brain	Soup
Gelt	Piroshki	Spaghetti
Golabki	Pizza	Spanikopita
Haggis	Pizzelles	Spanish rice
Halo-Halo	Plattar	Spices
Hamburgers/Burgers	Polish feasts - three meats	Spicy (foods)
Hummus	Polish sausages	Spicy curries
Idli	Pollo	Sticky rice
Idli sambar	Pongal	Subji
Irish soda bread	Poori	Sufganiyot
Juicy sweet buns	Pork	Sushi
Kabob	Pork adobo	Swedish meatballs
Kalbi	Pork intestines	Sweets: gulab juman, jalabi, mutar paneer
Kielbasa	Potato pancakes	Tabouli
Kimchi	Potatoes	Tacos
Kolacky	Puto (Filipino rice cake)	Tofu
Kotlety	Pyttipanna (Swedish hash)	Tortellini
Kugel	Rajma	Ube (purple yam)
Lamb	Ramen	Vegetables
Latkes	Ribs	Watermelon
Lechon	Rice	Zhongzi (rice dumplings)
Lefse	Rice and stew	

CLOTHING

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding clothing that make their families distinct.

Respondents reported clothing by Nationality / Region; Fabric Description; Special Occasions / Locations; Garment Names; and Shopping or Brand.

The most frequent of all responses were saris (22), kurta (12), normal/regular (11), sulwar (7) and Chinese (6). All other responses were identified 5 or fewer times.

Fabric Description

Beads & Embroidery
Camouflage
Casual modern
Casual wear
Classical
Converse
Cool
Dress/dressy/dress-up/fancy
Flower
Formalwear
Fur
Lighter
Linen
Long
Matching
Modest
Red
Religious
Silk
Sparkly

Special Occasions / Locations

Holidays (e.g. Chinese New Year, Hindu holidays)
Parties
Religious (e.g. Synagogue)
Ukrainian special events
Weddings

Nationality / Region

American
Chinese
Colombian
Indian
Irish
Japanese
Swedish/American
Ukrainian
Western

Garment Names

Button downs
Caps
Churidars
Dirndl
Dresses
Hanbok
Hatah
Hoodies
Jeans
Jewelry
Kilts
Kippahs
Kurta
Langa
Lederhosen
Leggings
Lehenga saree
Pants
Pattu pavadai
Polo
Qipao
Robes
Salwar
Sari/sarees
Saris with bunyles
Shalwar Kameez
Shirts
Shoes
Shorts
Sombrero
Sweatpants
Toub
T-shirt
V-neck

Other Attributes

Mariachi clothes
Winter / summer
Target clothes

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding Environmental Factors that make their families distinct.

Respondents identified factors which can be categorized as relating to Geography & Natural Features and Home Life & Factors. Green lifestyle ("recycling") was identified by 11 respondents.

Geography & Natural Features

American
Beautiful natural reserves
Caspian Sea
Chinese
Cold
Hot /dusty / dry / humid / desert
Italy: warmer in the year
Mountains
Naperville
No snow
Poland/Russia: colder
Rainy
Smog
Sunny / warm
Swedish/American
Trees

Home Life & Factors

Camping in summer / Outdoor people / outside a lot
Chinese smoke (on visits)
Conservative
Dad worked to make cars more environmentally safe.
Electronics
Fake plants
German decorations
Grandma lived through dust bowl.
Green: no plastic water bottles, power saving bulbs, recycling
House / regular furniture
Movies / Music / Literature
My mom left Iraq at childhood because of Iraq-Iran war.
Nutrition: Mom nutritionist; no meat, fish or eggs; Vegetarianism
Relatives recently moved here from Iraq.
Shorter
Simplicity
Sister and I hula hoop.
Strict spot on

ENTERTAINMENT

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding Entertainment that make their families distinct.

Respondents identified several ways exemplifying how their families are distinct by way of Entertainment. The most frequent responses fell into the categories of TV/media/shows (56), Sports (42), Dance (26), Music (24), Movies & cinema (18), Technology (18), Games (17), and Video games (15). Other categories had 10 or fewer responses.

TV / media / shows: Reality TV, game shows, sports, Western shows, movies, netflix, SpongeBob, British shows, Chinese shows & soap operas, Indian serials & shows, Japanese shows, Korean shows, Colombian Caracol "Sabados Felices"

Sports: Baseball, basketball, cricket, figure skating, fishing, football, hockey, Kabaddi, Olympics, soccer, swimming, table tennis

Dance: Banko, Chinese, Dubkeh, holidays, hora, itik-itik, tinikling, folk, circle, Indian, Irish

Music: Arabic/Urdu, bagpipes, Chinese, radio, singing, Spanish, symphonies, piano

Movies & cinema : Albanian, Bollywood, Indian, Polish, Italian

Technology: iPads, iPods, YouTube, phones, electronics, computer apps, games, websites, internet

Games: Board games, Carrom board, charades, Chinese, dominoes, dreidel, cards, Ludo

Video Games: League of Legends, Mortal Kombat, Xbox, Pokemon

Family Activities: Games, parties, outdoors, trips, travel, playing, relaxing

Holidays & Festivals: Diwali, Durga pooja, Czech Christmas, Eid

Comedy: Jokes, pranks, Jewish humor, comedy, xiangshen

Nationality American, Asian, Chinese

Opera: Chinese

Theater: Acting, musicals, plays

Other responses: Censored, designing, Historical Chinese Fantasy Myths/Dramas, make wood toys/crosses, Night markets, no TV, school, socializing, talking, telling stories, watch & read Chinese news & shows, whatever our friends and family perform in, Math, Reading/books

ARCHITECTURE

Kennedy students and staff identified many ways that Architecture makes their families distinct.

These ways may be categorized as Building Features, Objects, and Locations as seen below. The most frequently identified aspects were regarding Houses (7); Temples (7); and Paintings (5).

Building Features

Archways
Domes
Dutch stepped gables
Foot of bed must not face Mecca
Gopura (Indian temple entrance tower; plural Gopuram)
Houses: sloped roofs, 3-4 stories high, Big, on lake, cottage
Indian-ish
My room
No basements
Pond in house with fish
Prayer room must face Mecca
Room for a shrine
Singapore/Japan's earthquake-proof buildings
Space-saving
Square
Swedish
The gods mandir (temple) in our house must face east

Objects

Chinese paintings and pots
Cross above each bedroom doorway
Decorated spoons
Dolls
Fun handmade ink banners
Paintings (unusual, classical)
Plates
Russian objects
Small statues
Tapestries

Locations

Great Wall (east-to-west line border of northern China borders)
Kaabah - cuboid building in Mecca
Taj Mahal - Indian white marble mausoleum
Temples (e.g. Masjid, mosque)

SYMBOLS OF FAMILY PRIDE

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding Symbols of Family Pride that make their families distinct.

Respondents identified symbols of family pride, which can be described in the following categories: People, Places, Education / Work, Symbolic Objects, National Flags / Banners, Personal Possessions, Family Crests / Letters, Religious Items, Sports Teams, Values / Beliefs, Holidays, and Physical Attributes.

People

Great uncle and uncle were in the Indian army
Me :)
Mom is a descendant of Confucius
Related to Abraham Lincoln

Education / Work

Dad - U of Michigan, law school, lawyer,
electrical engineer, U of Illinois,
Doctors and Engineers
Lions University of Chicago, Iowa
Honors Math and PI
Mom - chemical engineer
Purdue
University of Nebraska
University of Michigan

National Flags / Banners

Chinese, Indian, Italy, Peruvian, Swedish, Ukrainian
Banner - plaque of Germany

Family Crests / Letters

"Lucky" symbol in Chinese
A "G" for Gregory
A big metal F
Family Crests (e.g. Drammond)
First letter in our name showing intelligence
Murphy's symbol in Ireland

Religious Items

Buddha
Chinese buddhas statues
Crescent, our god's name
God statues
Jesus Christ
Jewish star
Menorah

Sports Teams

Bears
I-L-L-I-N-!!
Wolves (English soccer team because I was born in Wolverhampton)

Holidays

Burns Night (Scottish tradition in January)
Hanukkah

Physical Attribute

My grandma says our red hair

Places

Dacha in Minsk
House in Colorado
House in Michigan for many generations
Mandir in our house
Mausolium in Iowa
Mosque
Shrines

Symbolic Objects

Chinese Art
Color red
Decoration - red weave
Lion/tiger
Moon
Om symbol
Peace sign

Personal Possessions

A bag of hot cheetos
Achievements
Achieving awards
Bagpipes
Dad's trophies
Gold zodiac necklaces
Iron Wolf, Armor
Japanese scroll
Jewelry
Mariachi hat
My school pictures and awards
Ornaments on Christmas tree
Personal letters
Pictures
Rings
Spanish items throughout our house
Trophies
Violin

Values / Beliefs

Grades/good grades
Care about others
Always kind
Doing stuff that is good
Helpful
Motivation
Praying
Selfless
We are awesome!!
We're all super smart?

RELIGION

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding Religion that make their families distinct.

Respondents identified 34 religious descriptions.

The most frequent responses were Christian (132), Catholic (59), Hindu (40), Jewish (13), Islam (11), Buddhism (11), Lutheran (10), Muslim (7), and Atheism (6). The remaining descriptions had 5 or fewer responses.

Religious Descriptions

Agnostic	Israelite
Assyrian Eastern Christian Orthodox	Italian
Atheism	Jainism
Bahai / Jewish	Jewish
Baptist	Jewish / Christian
Bible	Lutheran
Buddhism	Mormon
Catholic	Muslim
Catholic / Jewish	Muslim / Sunni
Chinese (celebrations, New Year)	Quaker / Roman Catholic
Christian	Roman Catholic
Christian - United Methodist	Sikh
Confused	Statues of gods in one room
Dutch	Swami Reon
Eastern Christian Orthodox	Uniformitarianism
Greek Orthodox	Unitarian
Hindu	Very close to God

SPORTS

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding Sports that make their families distinct.

Kennedy students and staff responded with 42 categories of activities (mostly sports-related) which identify their families as distinct.

The most frequently identified sport types were Soccer-Football (81), American Football (80), Basketball (49), Baseball (43), Cricket (33), Hockey (32), Swimming (28), Tennis (19), Badminton (18), Dancing (16), Volleyball (8), Wrestling (8), Ping-pong (7), and Gymnastics (6). All other activities yielded 5 or fewer responses.

Sports / Sport Types

American sports	Lacrosse
Badminton	Martial arts (Kung Fu, karate, Taekwondo)
Baseball (Cubs, White Sox)	Ping-pong / Table Tennis
Basketball (college, Bulls, Duke)	Rugby
Bocce ball	Running (Cross country)
Body building	Skateboarding
Bowling	Skating (ice skating, figure skating)
Cheerleading	Ski racing
Chess	Snowboarding
Chinese chess	Soccer (Celtic team, playing, World Cup, Chelsea, PSG, Chicago Fire)
Cricket	Softball
Dancing (hip-hop, jazz, Chinese, Irish, ballet)	Summer olympics
Field hockey	Surfing
Fine arts (piano, musicals)	Swimming
Football (Bears, Patriots, Packers, Broncos, Michigan State, college)	Tennis
Ga-ga ball	Track & field
Golf	Triathalons
Gymnastics	Umpire
Hockey (Blackhawks, Red Wings)	Volleyball
Horseback riding	Water polo
Kabaddi	Wrestling

VALUES

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify unique aspects regarding Values that

Various interpretations and understandings resulted in respondents identifying a variety of character values or valuable belongings. Some of the responses can be considered in the following popular categories: Athletics, Belongings, School & Education, Family, Food, Health, Helping, Holidays, Religion, and Respect.

Responses

Abstinence

Animals

Art

Athletics (Soccer, basketball, baseball, running, sports)

Be the Best

Belongings (Ancient Chinese coins, trophies, animals, brass statues of gods, great grandma's necklace)

Chinese values

Cleverness

Community

Dance like nobody's watching

Discipline

Equality

Fairness

Faith

Family (Traditions, being together, extended, love, above all, pictures)

Financial Stability/money

Follow through on commitments

Food (Cooking, Bohemian, eat with right hand)

Friends

Fun

Ghosts

Golden Rule

Good character

Gratitude

Happiness

Hard work ("Work now, fun later" & don't get lazy)

Health (Mental and physical)

Helping (People, animals, environment)

Holidays (Chinese New Year, Moon Festival, long birthday noodles, Hanukkah, Christmas)

Honesty

Humane slaughtering

Humor

Independence

Integrity

Intelligence

Karma

Keep yourself covered

Kindness

Life

Like your enemies

Love

Non-violence

Not all opinions are meant to be expressed

Peace

Perseverance

Pixie Dust

Polite manners

Religion (God, Live for Jesus, Christianity, pray at night, 10 Commandments)

Respect (Elders, women, authority, others)

Responsibility

School & Education (learning, successful student, good college, get into college, good grades)

Simplicity

Stand-up girl

Staying busy

Strict childhood rules (right conduct)

Success

The eye to ward off evil

Time management

Trust

Truth (don't lie)

ANYTHING ELSE

Kennedy students and staff were asked to identify any other unique aspects that make their families distinct.

Respondents identified several other unique aspects that could be categorized as Heritage/Region/Travel, Language, Food, Environmental Factors, Architecture, Symbols of Family Pride, Religion, Sports, Values, Holidays, Physical Attributes, and Other.

Countries / Regions

Summer Guatemalan camp
Travel every year outside the U.S.
Stories of moving all over
Sightseeing
Living in 4 different countries
Visit Haiti a lot.
Wide-spread culture
My great grandma was in a German work camp in WWII.
One side been here since before Revolution
100% Lithuanian
3rd generation to live in AZ and IL
China / Chinese
Come from Asia
Dual-citizenship

Language

Lithuanian - only language almost unchanged from its origin.
Nobody in my family speaks Korean or Filipino.

Food

Fast in summer for 30 days
Spicy food
Meat can only be halal
Can't eat any pork at all

Environmental Factors

Festive and vibrant culture
Diverse music: classical, Musicals soundtracks, pop, funk, rock and jazz.
Czech songs
Instruments
Most of us play guitar.
Mother rules the house.
Mom and Dad are divorced.

Architecture

Decorate our house with bits & bobs from places we've been.
Picture or model of god in every room.

Symbols of Family Pride

Family farm in Iowa
Make unique fours.
Military
Dad's family was featured in a newspaper for their farm.

Physical Attribute

Paleness

Sports

Indian classical dance
Basketball
Czech gymnastics

Religion

Going to church
Meditation
Reincarnation
Not beliefs that make you Jewish, it's actions
Practice Judaism but celebrate Christian holidays.
We are polytheistic
We read the Quran
We are spiritual, not religious
One of few Christian Indians
Pray up to five times a day.

Values

Giving to charity
Having fun
Having lots of family time
Love to learn more.
School comes first.
Always together no matter what situation
Smart
Fun, nice family
weird and loud
what possibilities we have
Different but similar style of living
Huge family (20 cousins)
Grew up poor but provide comfortable life
Spend a lot of time with cousins, aunts and uncles, grandparents.
Lots of get togethers
Have a dog/love our dog

Holidays

Bar/Bat Mitzvat at age 13
Celebrate Christmas, easter
Celebrate Hanukah and Christmas
Celebrate Slava
Chinese New Year (money is given to children)
Festivals - Diwali, Holi
Many holidays with certain foods
Christmas traditions
Moon Festival
New Year's celebrated differently.
Other holidays
Celebrate godfathers and godmothers
Celebrate the eve of holidays, such as Eater Eve.
Zhongzi Festival

Other

We're as dull as a box o' nails.

CONCLUSION

Administering the cultural awareness survey and sharing its results has had numerous positive outcomes.

- Inviting all students and staff to participate in the survey communicates that everyone's family contribution and experience is valued at Kennedy, which in turn creates a more welcoming climate.
- The report data helped equip SFCP members, particularly planning committee parents, in acknowledging, supporting and celebrating family cultural diversity for the Friday evening, February 6, 2015, Cultural Diversity Celebration. For example, not only was the report itself presented as an exhibit at the event, but also the data from "Foods" was incorporated into a computer game activity by Health and Physical Education teachers to engage students to think about nutrition and various ethnic foods.
- Access to the survey data on the Kennedy website under the SFCP tab encourages cultural awareness for all families, students and staff year-round, not just during a single annual cultural event. In addition to posting survey results on the website, the report was posted in the front school foyer, enabling students, families and staff immediate access to the data.
- By placing the report on the school website accessible by the public, the entire District 203 community may gain a better understanding of the diverse cultures that make up Kennedy. Also, families considering moving into the Kennedy community can access and review the report to identify attributes in families which they recognize and value in a learning environment for their own student.
- By having more specifically identified the cultures represented in the Kennedy community, a plan to locate liaisons can be developed to reach each culture, possibly forming affinity groups to better serve and support Kennedy students and families.

Recognizing that the survey captured information from only about half of Kennedy's students, the email address kjhsculturalreport@gmail.com was created for families whose culture may have been omitted or misrepresented in the survey. In this way Kennedy staff and SFCP may better serve families and students throughout the year with this ongoing effort to connect with a variety of families.

The cultural awareness survey results will serve as a resource for teachers, staff and parents in their efforts to increase culturally responsive practices not only throughout the building by day but also after school hours between families, moving us all closer to our goal of becoming a more culturally responsive community at Kennedy Junior High School.