

Embracing Mexican Culture: Parent Outreach Through Dance in a Dual Language School

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Summary

- A Traditional Mexican Dance Group formed by parents, teachers, and students creates a welcoming and respectful school community for Mexican parents. The Dance Group, as a form of culturally relevant practice, impacts parents, teachers, and students with rippling effects that go beyond instruction. Parents become more comfortable interacting with teachers and participating in school events. Teachers and students learn about culture and develop intercultural skills. Students feel pride in their culture and heritage.

Context

Woodburn Community

- Anglo community
 - Retired couples
 - Younger families
- Hispanic community
 - 2nd – 3rd generation
 - New immigrants

School District

- 5,600 Students
- 78 % Hispanic
- 11 % Anglo
- 80% Free and reduced lunch
- 60% English Learners
- Dual Language Program - 80/20 model



Culturally Relevant Practice

- Mexican Dance Group
- Connects Parents to School
- Parental Integration to School Community



- Validating culture
- Equalizing relationship
- Welcoming school community

(González, Moll, & Amanti, 2005; Gorski & Pothini, 2014; Valdés, 1996; Wink, 2005)

Allport's conditions for positive intergroup contact:

- a) equal group status
- b) common goals
- c) intergroup cooperation
- d) the support of authorities or custom

(Everett & Onu, 2013)

Purpose/Motivation

Integration

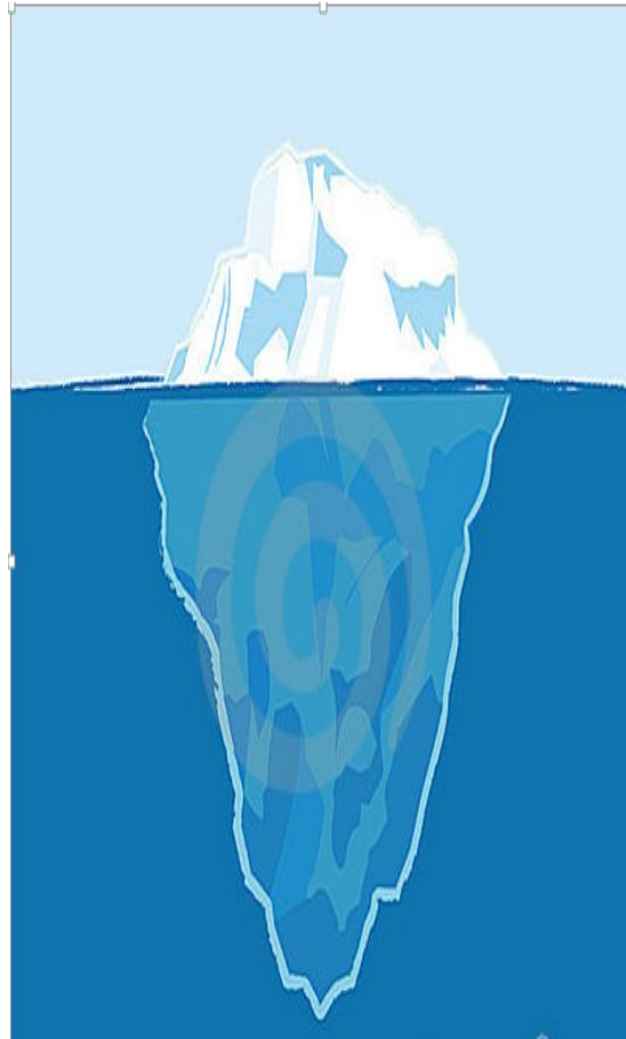
- Hispanic Parents
- Anglo Teachers

Cultural

- Mexican Traditions
- Student Heritage

Didactic

- Culture
- Language
- Equity



integration equity access to art/culture

respect funds of knowledge solidarity

heritage validate breaking language barriers

validation expertise intercultural communication

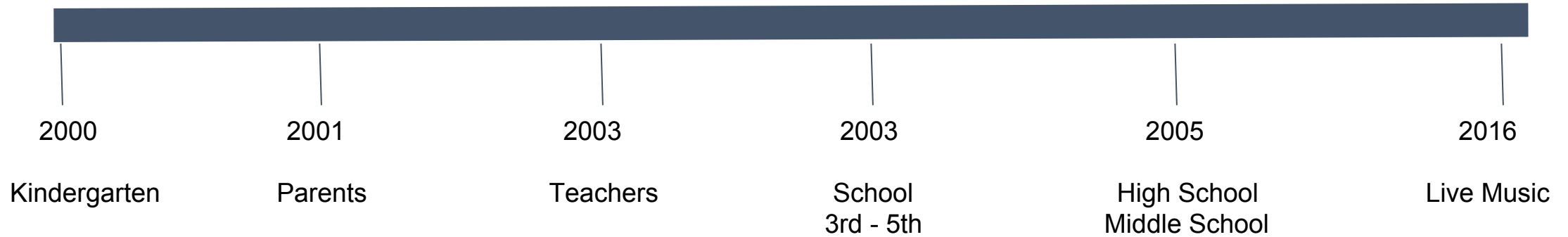
community connections identity pride cultural competence

Hispanic and Anglo families are together

collaboration interaction nurture learning

parent engagement equalizer in relationships

Dance Group Trajectory



School ---> Woodburn Community ---> Willamette Valley

Positive Impact: Community

Communication

- Authentic Interaction
- Intercultural
- Bias-reduction

Collaboration

- Equality
- Respect
- “Confianza”

Involvement

- Presence
- Voice
- Relationships



Parents

- Feel At Home
 - *LAZOS de Conexión*
 - Validation
 - School Environment
 - Interacting with Teachers
 - Using English
- Participation
 - School Events
 - With Teachers
 - Social Capital



Students

- Pride
 - Culture and Heritage
- Interactions
 - Translators
 - Parents = Teachers
- Culture
 - Access to Art
 - Presentation Skill
 - Cultural Exchange



Teachers

- Student's culture
 - Traditions
 - Individual students
- Develop intercultural skills
 - Warmth
 - BICS



Rippling Effects



School

- Valuing and promoting cultural aspects
- Developing intercultural competence among parents, teachers, and students.

Community

- Breaking barriers
 - Cultural
 - Linguistic
 - Educational
 - SES

Logistics



Administration

- Be open minded to opportunity
- Create a fertile environment
- Transportation
- Costs

Dance Director

Behind the Scene:

- Choreography
- Events
- *Vestuario*
- Permissions

Comments / Questions



Dance Performance

When: Saturday, April 30, 2016

Where: Woodburn High School

Time: 3 pm

Who: Nellie Muir Students

Information: <http://www.woodburnsd.org/>

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