

Art Walk & Cultural Food Fest

Wildcat Mountain Elementary School

Littleton, CO



Wildcat Mountain Elementary strives to provide a positive, inclusive, welcoming community that cultivates passionate hearts that contribute to the wellbeing of others. Art expression is one of the many ways students demonstrate their individual talents and perspectives. During our Art Walk and Cultural Food Fest, the building was immersed in families' heritage with students' artwork covering the interior walls, cultural dances, and food tastings from around the world. Staff and families were invited to teach cultural dances in the library, dress in attire that reflected their family's heritage, cook dishes for families to sample that emulate their family's culture, and design and create artwork that would be displayed for years to come in the community garden.

Families and staff were elated to attend the teacher sponsored Art Walk and Cultural Food Fest which gave them the opportunity to meet one another, socialize, and engage in a multitude of activities. The Art Walk and Cultural Food Fest started with an art show. Student's artwork was professionally framed and displayed in the gym and around the school. The student's artwork was also uploaded and added to an online platform which allowed friends and families in the community to purchase the artwork to raise money for the art program.



Staff and families were invited to cook their favorite family recipes to share with the community. Families donated meals from local restaurants and delivered special family dishes to the cafeteria with brief descriptions of the meal and the country of origin. Cultural dances and music were also taught by staff and families. Families and staff were eager to share and introduce three different dances to the community: Bharatanatyam, Irish Step Dance, and Greek Dance. Gracious members volunteered their time to instruct families on how to perform the dances.

Finally, Wildcat Mountain's own Green Team raised money for the Wildcat Community Garden's irrigation system by offering the opportunity to design a tile that would adhere to the outside of the garden. Cement steppingstones could be purchased by families to leave a lasting impression in the garden. Additionally, the PTO president grew plants which were then sold to families for a dollar minimum donation



The Wildcat Mountain Art Walk and Cultural Food Fest was a huge success! Compliments were heard throughout the building and emails of gratitude were received. The event raised over a thousand dollars for the art program and community garden, and lasting memories were created. Schools are greatly encouraged to plan an event like this for their community. It was a huge success, that brought the community together.

Standard 1—Welcoming All Families
Essential Element 1—Create an Inclusive Culture