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The World According to Joe Cool



Joe Cool

Hi Pontiac - Joe Cool here and honored to write this article. To all who have contacted me regarding my previous articles many thanks. In this article, let's talk about the spirit of December Holidays throughout the world. There are many different types of Festivals celebrated during the month of December. I want to relate to you two events in which I made presentations at different locations and audiences.

The first is the presentation entitled "Christmas Around the World" which I gave at the Children's Christmas Party at the Mexican Mutual Society (sometimes known as La Loma) located in Auburn Hills. Children and Parents gathered around the screen and we spoke about how Christmas is celebrated in several different countries.

Through visual slides, I described the origin and meaning of Poinsettias, Christmas Trees, Candy Canes, Holly and Mistletoe. Through words and photos, I described the Christmas celebrations in several countries including Mexico, England, Germany and Australia. Did you know - Australia is in the southern hemisphere and in December it is summertime. Many Australians celebrate Christmas "at the beach" with family and friends where they also exchange gifts. We couldn't do that here in Michigan that's for sure. As a group, we said "Merry Christmas" in 8 different languages. That was fun for all and from the comments I received from both children and adults all had a great time and learned a lot. "It was a pleasure to see the faces on the kids as Mr. Cool presented an

educational and cultural seminar about the various activities that surround Christmas", said Kristina Hawkins, President of the organization.

The second is the presentation entitled "December Festivals Around the World" which I gave at the residential community of Village Green Of Waterford. Once again, through words and photos, I described the unique Festivals that are celebrated in several countries. The Festivals I described included Hanukkah, The Feast of St. Nicholas, Bodhi Day Observance, Eid al-Adha, Christmas and Kwanzaa - this order was selected due to the order of observance in the month of December 2007. For each Festival, I described local activities of the children including visiting of family and friends and the exchange of gifts. "It was very knowledgeable to connect with the cultures through education provided by the presentation. I was very thrilled!" said MaryBeth Bowers, Executive Manager of Village Green of Waterford.

WOW! What a great time had by all!! We all learned something about December Festivals and how other cultures celebrate in their own unique way. There is no right way or wrong way to celebrate Festivals throughout the year - only different ways. Having worked in virtually every culture on this planet we call Earth, I have found that to be successful, one has to be flexible and adaptable. Would you like a presentation to your children or adult group describing various celebrations and Festivals throughout the year? The world is full of Festivals and I have personally experienced many. Send your requests to Joe Cool at ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net and I will answer in future columns.