

Schools get a taste of the international

CHILDREN got a taste of the international on Thursday as schools celebrated European Languages Day.

At Downton Primary School each year focused on a different European country and dressed in the colours of the country's flag. The countries were Italy, Spain, Poland, Iceland, France, Holland and Germany.

Children spent the morning learning about the cultures of two European countries then learnt about the other

countries from their fellow students in the afternoon assembly.

The food also had a European theme with croissants and hot chocolate for the breakfast club and a lunch of Greek olives and Spanish tostados to start, followed by Italian meatballs and then Polish apple cake and Icelandic ginger cookies for dessert. Children also got to try a selection of cheeses from different European countries.

Manor Fields Primary School in

Salisbury also celebrated the diversity of languages, but didn't just stick to Europe, with children learning about Australia and America, as well as Spain, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria and France. Every class had children from different year groups and they wore the countries' colours. Teachers brought in food and drink relevant to each country and the classes learnt facts about the country, lis-

tened to music and did art activities.

In the afternoon they had a sharing assembly where they told the other groups what they had learned.

Audrey Capon, head of foreign languages and the main organiser of the day, said: "It's a lot of work organising it every year, but it's worthwhile because they do enjoy it and they gain so much from it. It makes them a little bit more aware of the diversity around them."



Photo of the Week

"I'll do my dreaming with my eyes wide open, and I'll do my looking back with my eyes closed"

Nia Vardalos confirmed as 2009 National Adoption Day spokesperson

The National Adoption Day Coalition is pleased to announce Nia Vardalos as its 2009 National Adoption Day spokesperson.



The Academy Award and Golden Globe nominated My Big Fat Greek Wedding writer and actress is an advocate for U.S. foster care adoption. She recently took her cause to the public arena when she and her husband, Ian Gomez, adopted their daughter from foster care in 2008.

"My goal is to raise awareness about foster family agencies who can connect prospective parents with the 129,000 legally free children waiting for a family," Vardalos said. "I am pleased to spread the message that American foster care, while maintaining the highest level of screening, does not discriminate against applicants for reasons of income level, marital status or sexual orientation."

Vardalos is active with the adoption organization, AdoptUSKids, aimed at recruiting and connecting foster and adoptive families with waiting children throughout the United States (). She also has blogged about her own adoption journey as a .

Vardalos will help kick off the 10-year anniversary

of National Adoption Day (www.nationaladoption-day.org) at the national celebration event and press conference in Los Angeles on Friday, November 20, beginning celebrations across the country the following day.

"The National Adoption Day Coalition is honored to have Nia as our national spokesperson," said Rita Soronen, executive director of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, a founding sponsor of National Adoption Day. "Nia has selflessly used her celebrity to generate awareness for foster care adoption, and her personal story of adoption is both heartwarming and encouraging."

This year on November 21, communities in all 50 states will hold courtroom celebrations to finalize more than 4,000 adoptions of children from foster care, bringing the total number of finalized adoptions as part of National Adoption Day activities to

more than 25,000. Hundreds of judges, attorneys, adoptions agencies, adoption professionals and child advocates volunteer their time to finalize adoptions of children from foster care and celebrate all families who adopt.

Los Angeles, the city where National Adoption Day began in 2000, leads the country with innovative and successful programs to promote foster care adoptions, annually completing about 5,000 of these adoptions throughout the state.

Since 1987, the number of children in foster care has nearly doubled, and the average time a child waits for an adoptive family is more than three years. Through no fault of their own, these children enter foster care because of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment. Many move to different families more than three times while in the system and are separated from siblings. Each year, nearly 26,000 of these youth will end up leaving the sys-

tem when they turn 18 with no family to support them in the future.

About the National Adoption Day Coalition

National Adoption Day is sponsored by a coalition dedicated to improving the lives of children, including The Alliance for Children's Rights, Casey Family Services, Children's Action Network, The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Freddie Mac Foundation. The National Adoption Day Coalition works tirelessly throughout the year with hundreds of communities and thousand of volunteers to dispel the myths about adopting from foster care and to raise awareness about the 129,000 children in need of adoptive families. For more information about the events taking place locally and foster care adoption, please visit .

Source: National Adoption Day Coalition



Sperantza Vrana died of heart attack

Sperantza Vrana (born February 6, 1926 or 1932 in) was a actress and writer. She was born Elpida Homatianou. She wrote several books with the most famous autobiography Tolmo. She died of a heart attack on 29 September 2009



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