

Traditions from around the world: Other holidays celebrated in Redmond community

By Samantha Pak
Redmond Reporter Reporter
December 22, 2011

A HOLI HOLIDAY

For the month of December, students at the Goddard School at 4200 228th Ave. N.E. in Redmond studied different holidays around the world and in learning about Hinduism they celebrated Holi, the religion's Festival of Colors.

Abby Yokers, the school's education director, said the holiday is celebrated with people wearing white and throwing colored powder and colored water at each other.

Holi is filled with joy and excitement and actually celebrated in the spring, but Yokers said they chose to hold their celebration this month to go with their curriculum.

The school's interpretation was to cover an entire classroom in white paper and drop cloths, fill bowls with paint and allow students to paint the room as they saw fit.

"It was absolutely fantastic to watch," Yokers said. "It was a lot of fun — very messy, but totally worth it."

Goddard serves about 80 families and because students are 6 weeks to about 5 years old, she said the potential for disaster was high and she expected chaos. However, the kids were very well behaved considering they were in a zone with no rules except for no running (for safety purposes), Yokers said.

Each class had the opportunity to paint and as a result, the room was filled with flowers, train tracks, footprints as well as paint smears created by the students. Yokers said she even witnessed some students mixing colors.

"It was amazing to see what they would create on their own," she said.

Goddard owner Jeff Barison said the activity took the majority of the day and was an opportunity for students to get creative and use their imaginations.

He said they studied other holidays this month such as Kwanza, Diwali and St. Lucia Day. One of the reasons they have included this in the curriculum is just as reflection of their student population.

"Our school is very diverse and with that, that's why we do holidays around the world," Barison said.

He added that parents saw their children's creations at the end of the day at pickup time. One of the fathers is from east India and Barison said he appreciated what they did and the school's homage to the tradition.

"It meant a lot to him," Barison said.

Online Circulation: 25,000