

A8(F)



Far east food: Stephanie Huang is adept at handling a plate of rice and chopsticks.



World traveler: Jordana Hoffman displays her passport. Students moved to different displays and got their passports stamped.



Quick feet: Highmeadow Common Campus second-grader Amber Brown displays her talent for Irish step dancing.

School fest celebrates world's cultures

By TIM SMITH
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Global is good, as demonstrated during the first-ever "Festival of the World" at Highmeadow Common Campus. More than 450 people crammed every nook and cranny of the Farmington district school to celebrate Highmeadow's rich cultural diversity.

The efforts of many parents enabled students and others to enjoy food, artifacts and other hands-on learning activities. Just from Highmeadow's

AT HIGHMEADOW

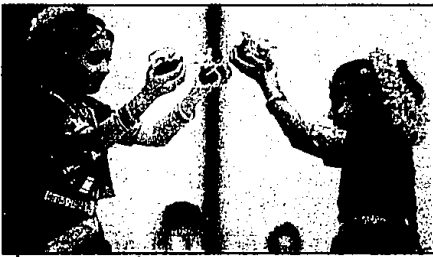
student population alone, there were 18 countries represented, including China, Ireland, Nepal, Iran, Russia, Pakistan and Italy.

Among highlights of the event, sponsored by the Highmeadow PTA, were displays of dolls from around the world and a lot of student dancers. A culminating performance in the gymnasium featured Irish step dancing, Indian folk dancing and other "world" music. The dances were organized at school.

"We had just an energy of coming together and celebrating the differences," said Highmeadow Principal Beverly Miller about the event. "It is truly felt we are stronger through our diversity."

Heading up coordination efforts for the program were the school's PTA president Mary Ebrat, co-chairs Marina Abraham and Renay Rath and Laura Olson, who handled publicity.

"There were a lot of people involved, from a lot of countries," said Abraham about the large turnout. "And the folk dances, ... parents like to see their kids up on stage."



Coordinated: Anisha Koppolu and Meghana Konanur perform a South Indian classical candle dance.

You've always known she was headed for Lawrence Tech... Who thought it would be in 11th grade?

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