

Students celebrate Cinco de Mayo

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Fourth- and fifth-graders from Highmeadow Common Campus celebrated Cinco de Mayo last week with a trip to Mexicantown in Detroit.

Language barriers and differences dissolved when the students met schoolchildren of Mexican heritage.

Cinco de Mayo is annually celebrated on May 5. It is the anniversary of a 1862 battle in which a force of ill-equipped Mexican peasants overcame an invading French Army.

"Many people think it is Mexico Independence Day," said Jordan Lindsey, a fifth-grader in teacher Karen Farber's class.

Lindsey, along with her fellow classmates read to and played games with Maybury Elementary School students.

"They collected and donated books and read," Farber said.

There were books like *Early Bird on Sesame Street* and *ABC* by Dr. Seuss.

"We let the kindergartners choose what books they wanted to take home," Lindsey said.

A trip to E & L Supermarket followed. The supermarket, which is located on West Vernor, just minutes from the Ambassador Bridge, has served this Hispanic community since 1947. It offers fresh produce, fresh baked Mexican pastries, and a large selection of Mexican products in an ethnic atmosphere.

The children also met David Fienman, an E & L store employee who attended Highmeadow in the third grade and graduated from North Farmington High School.

Just a coincidence

He didn't know the students and teachers were coming.

"It was a complete coincidence," Fienman said. "I met my third grade teacher, Mrs. Apol."

The students enjoyed shopping.

"They gave us free candy, free pitas and a free pinata," Lindsey said.

The classes will take their gift pinata to their class picnic at

HIGHMEADOW COMMON CAMPUS

Heritage Park, she said.

There was also time to buy things like mangoes and sweets, for instance, coconut flags that came in the national colors of Mexico — green, red, and white, Lindsey said.

Flora Chinchilla, Highmeadow Spanish teacher, taught the children about plantains, which is a banana plant.

The angular, greenish starchy fruit of the plantain is a staple food in the tropics when cooked.

The final stop was lunch at Mexicantown Restaurant where children ordered a combination plate, with some students sampling Mexican fare for the first time.

"They ordered in Spanish," Farber said.



Mingling: Highmeadow Common Campus and Maybury Elementary School students participated in Cinco de Mayo activities.

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Hard at play: Highmeadow fifth graders Jordan Lindsey and Greg Holm enjoy an ethnic game during a recent field trip.

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