

Description of 2006 CT COLT Rhyme Celebration (Christi Moraga, Co-Chair)

Approximately 200 children recited rhymes in 13 world languages on Tuesday, March 14th for the Fifteenth Annual CT COLT Rhyme Celebration. The event took place at Welte Auditorium, CCSU from 3:30-5:30 PM. The event was co-hosted this year by the Connecticut Council Of Language Teachers and the Italian Resource Center at Central Connecticut State University. The Rhyme Celebration was created for children from PreK to sixth grade to promote an early love for languages. Delegations represented nineteen school districts (both public and private) from around the state. There was a combination of groups representing world languages learned in school (French, Spanish, and Japanese), after school and Saturday programs (Italian, German, Chinese and Polish), as well as heritage languages kept alive at home: Armenian,, Hindi, Korean, Portuguese, Romanian and Ukrainian.

The theme this year was perfect for an elementary festival held at a college campus: "When I Grow Up." The rhymes, chosen by the teachers, brought to mind all sorts of professions (doctor, teacher, baker, miller, fisherman, and musician) and hailed from authentic children's literature. It is a universal wish of children to dream about growing up and becoming somebody. Nursery rhymes reflect these common desires in culturally diverse ways. Some are very old that have been passed down through the generations. Carmela Pesca, the Director of the Italian Resource Center at CCSU, and Co-Chair of the Rhyme Celebration chose this theme to make a bridge between the youngsters and the college students who have volunteered to help with the preparations. Other sponsors of the event this year are the CCSU Center for International Education, CCSU Department of Modern Languages and CCSU International and Area Studies.

Each elementary student received a certificate printed in the language of the recitation, an illustrated souvenir program booklet with all of the rhymes, a button (made by a Mansfield student in a state-wide contest), a COLT pen-bracelet and healthy snacks. Teachers received timely information about the profession in the state and nation. Elementary world languages teachers network with colleagues through CT COLT, ACTFL (American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages), within ACTFL the LLC SIG (Language Learning for Children Special Interest Group) and NNELL (National Network for Early Language Learning). The CT COLT Rhyme Celebration is the first Connecticut event of 2006 to launch the national campaign "Discover Languages" and "2005-2015: The Decade of Languages." www.discoverlanguages.org For more information, you may also contact: Christi Moraga, Rhyme Celebration Co-Chair, trigal@comcast.net 860-617-5886.

The 2007 Rhyme Celebration will be held at Mansfield Middle School, with the theme:
"The Earth is a House for Us All"

2006 Schools Participating in Rhyme Celebration

Key

ARM = Armenian CH = Chinese FR = French GE = German HI = Hindi IT = Italian JA = Japanese KO = Korean POL = Polish POR = Portuguese RO = Romanian SP = Spanish UK = Ukrainian

Waterbury: Maloney Magnet School (JA)

Marlborough: Elmer Thienes (SP- RO - IT- ARM)

Farmington: West Woods Upper Elementary (SP-FR-KO-POR- HI)

New Britain: Polish Scouting Organization (POL)

**Region 12: Washington: Washington Primary; Bridgewater: Burnham School;
Roxbury: Booth Free School (SP)**

West Hartford: Norfeldt (FR)

Bloomfield: The German School of Connecticut (GE)

Essex: Essex Elementary (SP)

Simsbury: Latimer and Tariffville (SP)

Manchester: Das Kleine Schulhaus (GE)

Manchester: Nathan Hale (SP)

East Hartford-Glastonbury Magnet School (JA)

Glastonbury: Buttonball, Eastbury, Naubuc, Hopewell, Hebron Ave. (SP)

Old Saybrook: Kathleen Goodwin (SP)

Middletown Public Schools : Moody Elementary School, Spencer Elementary School (FR)

Waterbury: The Alba Program at Tekyo Post University (IT)

Greater Hartford: Greater Hartford Magnet School, Renbrook School, Champion Chinese Language Institute, Chinese Language School (CH)

New Britain : Italian Resource Center (IT - UK) * Host for 2006*

New Britain: CCSU Chorus