

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***CHILDREN'S MULTI-CULTURAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL***  
***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018***  
***10:00 – 1:00***  
***LANGLEY COMMUNITY CENTER***  
***723 Camano Ave, Langley WA 98260***

Here's a great way to enrich your family's winter holidays with new multi-cultural appreciation and practices. Bring the kids and grand-kids on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 1pm to the new Langley Community Center for a unique and fun learning opportunity for the whole family and experience 8 different cultural holiday traditions with crafts, stories, songs, games and food. Tickets are \$5 per child – but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

There will be individual stations representing Bulgaria, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Russia and Spain led by native speaking presenters where kids will learn hands-on about a *baniza* and *survatchka* from Eastern Europe, *bûche de noel* from France, Mexican dances and songs, Spanish holiday games, and much more!

Brigitte Baumer's delightful interactive German puppet show will tell the adventures of *Kleiner Stern*, Little Star, who fell from heaven as she tried to learn about *Weihnachten* and how she managed to get back home.

In addition there will be a Russian Bazaar table with original, handmade Russian Christmas ornaments and gifts, as well as a special Holiday Basket raffle.

Students from South Whidbey High School's Language Clubs and other volunteers will be the tour guides, so that small groups can rotate between the cultural activity stations and everyone will have the opportunity to experience all the variety of activities in a meaningful way.

Maureen Murphy of Bayview Farm and Garden, who is one of the contributors for the Raffle basket and grandmother of two young boys says: “ *We need, for the soul of America, to be multi-cultural and multi-lingual. It is the thing that connects us to the larger world and saves us from becoming ingrown and impotent.*”

Several of the Langley Community Center Organizations and Business are participating in the Children's Festival, by opening their space to host an activity station; Skagit Valley College, Create Space, The Children Center and Tiger Martial Arts.

Wendi Barker of Tiger Martial Arts, will be sharing a Karate demonstration and hosting the Japanese station. While Japan doesn't traditionally celebrate Christmas – they have embraced this Western celebration and have made it their own, along with their very traditional New Year revels.

Jeana Noel Domingues, who is the activities director of the Children's Center After School program and is coordinating the event with Josette Hendrix of the NWLACC says: *" We're excited by this opportunity to create more community in the Center, while providing cultural enrichment to our young families. Nurturing intercultural understanding and appreciation of diversity is near and dear to my heart and I'm super excited to be collaborating with the Northwest Language & Cultural Center on this festival. "*

Cross Cultural Competency is among the 10 most important skills of the future. Northwest Language and Cultural Center (NWLACC) is dedicated to bringing innovative resources to the children of our community to spark interest and appreciation of diversity, build a foundation for language learning and developing intercultural understanding. Find out more about the work of NWLACC <https://www.nwlacc.org/>

To volunteer at this event or other Global Cultures Experience projects, call or email Maria Ellis at (360) 321-2101 [maria.ellis@nwlacc.org](mailto:maria.ellis@nwlacc.org)

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NWLACC's mission is to nurture intercultural understanding and develop the capacity to thrive in the multi cultural world of the future. NWLACC makes it possible for the residents of the local community to become residents of the larger, global community. Through a variety of programming, language classes and intercultural exchanges they are preserving and honoring diversity, while building bridges of understanding and appreciation between people of different cultures. *" In this way we hope to contribute to a more peaceful and harmonious global community and a richer local one."*