

## Blog 23 – International Day



Yesterday was a HUGE day for NIS (my school). Almost each and every student traveled around the whole wide world, visiting 32 different countries in one day! What day is it? Of course it's Saturday, I mean what "event" is it? The one and only NIS International Day! Wearing our home country's traditional clothing, we ate local foods, played traditional games and had tons of fun! This event is mainly to learn about our friends' backgrounds --the country that they're from and its culture. Even now, I'm still surprised that our school's 600 students come from 32 different countries! Some of them I've only heard their names before like Paraguay and Cambodia.



This year, my family and I had a small debate on whether we should represent the Chinese team or the US team for our first year participating in this event. Eventually, with a two (my dad and I) to one (my mom) vote, we decided to join the US team. Many NIS students have multi-nationality. Their families rotate around and choose different teams each year. We might join the Chinese team next year and support my mom's vote since she's still holding her Chinese passport.

For the event, each country chose a theme and set up a booth with snacks, drinks, activities, decorations and pictures. This year, America's theme was "multi-cultural citizens." In order to express this theme, a large quilt was chosen as a centerpiece for the booth. Each of more than 50 American families was given a piece

of square white fabric to decorate and make their own. The fabric shows their family's history and uniqueness. "As the people with roots in the US, we are the pieces of fabric that make up this beautiful American quilt." That was the note sent to each family along with the fabric



Other than the booths, each country also put together a performance to take part in the International day show. The USA performance stated the theme in a musical way. It was kicked off with a poem: The New Colossus, read by my partner and me, followed by an Indian, Irish and American dance.



As the finale, Gangnam Style grabbed the whole audience! After spreading all over the world, we couldn't afford not having the Koreans perform it live on International day. We have more than 30% of students in NIS that are from South Korea! So it's pretty easy for them to organize a humongous group of dancers for the performance. This huge group of dancers from Elementary school to High school brought the show to the highest point! It only makes the US families wonder if they should come up with something more intriguing for next year. Any suggestions? How about "The Thriller"? ☺

