



Hello volunteers, donors, partners, and friends of Above & Beyond for Change,

May 20th was a day of color, rhythm, flavor, and pride. On that special evening, Pinewood Elementary hosted the **5th Annual Cultural Day** — and thanks to our community of supporters, volunteers, and families, it was our most unforgettable celebration yet.

Above & Beyond for Change was proud to sponsor this event, which turned the school into a living mosaic of cultures. What happened that night wasn't just a party — it was a powerful lesson in belonging.



What Happened at Cultural Day

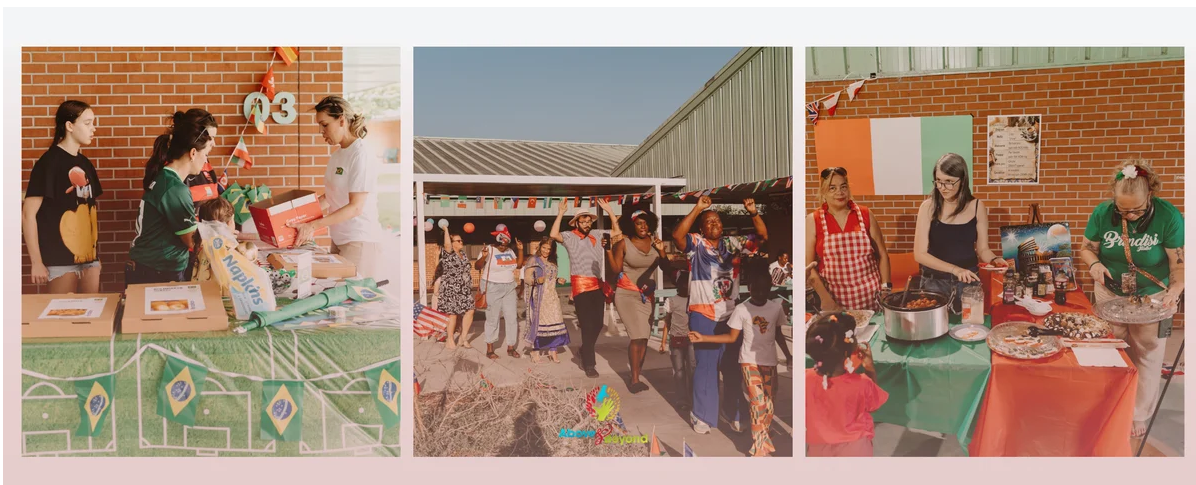
The event opened with a **Parade of Flags**, followed by the rhythmic beats of **Tassa by Trend Setters Tassa**, we had **15 countries** represented. Students, families, and staff carried flags from their home countries, transforming the schoolyard into a sea of color and pride.

Mrs. Tate welcomed everyone with opening remarks, setting the tone for an evening of unity and celebration.

From there, the audience traveled the world through:

- BR **Capoeira (Brazil)** – [@cbp_capoeira](#) - CBP Martial Arts Academy Orlando
- IN **Bollywood Dancing (India)** – Raveena Randall, Nina Ghamandi, Sunaina Worrell
- 🎤 **Poetry Recital – "Unity"** – Dr. Lumpkin
- 🥁 **Tubano Drumming (Latin America)** – 5th Grade students led by Ms. Smith
- US **Contemporary Dance (USA)** – Champion students led by Ms. Wilson
- PH **Maglalatik Dance (Philippines)** – Mr. Tolitol, Mr. Tangonan, Ms. Tolentino, & Ms. Penuela
- JM **Reggae Dancehall (Jamaica)** – Ms. MJ
- 🎭 **Student Showcase** – 3rd Grade students led by Mrs. Rahming-Lee
- BS **Junkanoo Dance (Bahamas)** – Mr. Ronnie Cash

Principal Frett Bowie closed the evening with heartfelt remarks, reminding everyone that **diversity is our strength, and unity is our future.**



Why This Event Matters

Cultural Day is much more than a celebration. It's a statement:

- ✓ **Every culture belongs here.**
- ✓ **Every child deserves to see their heritage honored.**
- ✓ **Exposure to diversity builds empathy, respect, and curiosity.**

For our students, seeing their family's flag, tasting a recipe from their grandmother's kitchen, or watching a dance from their parents' homeland on a school stage — that changes how they see themselves and the world.



Thank You to Our Community

This celebration simply wouldn't have happened without the incredible people who brought it to life:

- The **families** who shared their traditions with pride and joy.
- The **performers** who filled the night with music, movement, and artistry.
- The **teachers and staff at Pinewood Elementary** who champion cultural celebration every day.
- The **volunteers and donors of Above & Beyond for Change – including YOU.**

Your generosity helped sponsor the food, the performances, the materials, and the love that made this evening unforgettable.

A Look Back

Our **Mobile Photo Booth** was a hit. Families, students, and performers captured their joy in more than **80 vibrant photos** — and now you can enjoy them too.

👉 See all Photo Booth pictures here: [Cultural Day](#)

We also had a volunteer photographer, [@crismottaphotos](#), who beautifully documented the night's best moments.

👉 Photo Gallery [Pinewood Cultural Day 2026](#)

What's Next

Cultural Day 2026 is now part of our story — a beautiful milestone. But our mission keeps moving forward:

- **STEM classes** at Pinewood Elementary continue to grow and reach more students.
- **New partnerships** are forming to bring enriching summer activities to our community.
- **More cultural experiences**, including additional *Dinner Experiences at Olive Garden*, are already in the works.

Your support is what keeps this momentum alive.

DONATE

👏 How You Can Help Now

- **Share our mission** — Forward this newsletter to someone who believes in celebrating diversity and community.
- **Donate** — Every contribution helps us create more events like Cultural Day. Every dollar brings the world a little closer to our kids.
- **Follow us on Instagram** — Join us at [**@AboveAndBeyondForChange**](#) for photos, behind-the-scenes moments, and updates on what's coming next.

Love ❤️ and Light ✨

Michelle Sanchez- FOUNDER



Your generous donation will bring joy to our students and their families this holiday season. Let's spread love and kindness together!

Thank you for your support! ❤️ ✨

Feel free to share with friends and family.



"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness."

— **Ola Joseph**, Nigerian author

DONATE

Follow us on social media and stay informed about all our campaigns.



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