

Reading around the world part of JVES tradition

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The students of Juniata Valley Elementary School recently had the opportunity to travel around the world while reading. Once again, teachers, parents, and students came together for what's becoming the tradition of family reading night.

This trip around the world started on Nov. 24 when the students were each given a map of all seven continents. They were asked to help reach the school-wide goal of reading for a total of a million minutes by Jan. 21. Students were told to color a continent for every thirty minutes they read. When they finished coloring their map, students were to return it to their teacher, and receive another to try and complete. Completed maps were then displayed in the halls of the elementary building.

On the night of Tuesday, Jan. 20, Family Reading Night, many teachers, parents, students, brothers, sisters, friends, and even some grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, arrived at the front doors of the elementary school at six o'clock to begin their journey around the world. In fact, it was the best-attended family reading night ever! The evening started out with the students checking in and receiving their passports. Students were to receive credit for every different country they visited that evening. The families were then greeted by their new principal, Mrs. Warner, and introduced to Ludovica Columbo, a foreign exchange student from Italy who is attending Juniata Valley High School this year. Ludovica read the book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go," by Dr. Seuss. After listening to the story, students were introduced to Nicolas Pena, a native of Ecuador and then sent off to begin their journey "around the world."

Students had the opportunity to visit three of 10 different countries. Those "visiting" England listened to an English folktale, made royal crowns and looked at many different books and pictures pertaining to the country. While "in Mexico," students made tissue flowers, sang a song, looked at artifacts, and listened to Fernando Martinez, a native of Mexico, tell about his home country. Students "visiting" Germany were given the opportunity to view the research that was done by their peers, and to look at displays that were created. They were also



Students and their parents made colorful flag cookies during the Family Reading Night held recently at Juniata Valley Elementary School. The night's theme was centered on reading about other countries and culminated with the kids making these global treats.

introduced to Edel Simco, a native of Germany. While "in Italy," visitors were introduced to posters and displays created by fellow students specifically for this evening's event. While "visiting" China, students read The Five Chinese Brothers, made tan grams, Chinese flowers, and used chopsticks to fish for gummy fish.

"Visiting" Russia was like visiting a museum; there were artifacts and "Nesting Dolls" displayed from the ceiling. While "in Jamaica," students and families viewed different aspects of the Jamaican culture researched by fellow students and played games relating to the culture. While "in Australia," students played games, tasted food and explored materials prepared by fellow students. Students "visiting" Sweden explored Swedish games, musical instruments, tasted Swedish food and viewed displays created by fellow students. While "in Ecuador," student visitors had the opportunity to speak with Nicolas Pena, whom they had been introduced to earlier in the evening, and to Carl Hill, who shared his experiences of traveling to Ecuador. Families and students also viewed the research that students had done to help them understand what life was like in this country. As well as visiting the different countries, students could visit "Christmas Around the

World", a display showing many different ways Christmas is celebrated throughout the world. There were displays of what Christmas is like in Italy, Germany, England, Iraq, Mexico, Denmark, Finland, Israel and Sweden.

One final stop on their trip around the world was a visit to the elementary cafeteria, where the Juniata Valley Elementary PTO provided a snack. Snack was prepared so that each student could create a flag from one of the ten different countries presented. As each student entered the cafeteria, he or she was assigned a number that led him or her to a country's table. Once at the table, a parent volunteer provided each student with that country's flag-making kit. Each kit contained a graham cracker, different colors of icing, any emblems or other characteristics that were needed to create a flag, along with instructions and a mini-flag to use as a guide. With help from parents, teachers and a team of JVEPTO volunteers, students were able to create many wonderful flags of the world.

At 7:30 p.m., these students and their families returned from this journey "around the world" with a better understanding of life in different countries. And, once again, Juniata Valley Elementary families had spent Family Reading Night together as families.