



Resolution #28

Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration

Submitted by Gabriella Soto

February 27, 2024

Be it resolved by Operational Group, Polaris K-12 will have a week dedicated to celebrating and embracing the diversity among Polarians to encourage appreciation and representation through traditions, languages, and foods.

1. **Whereas**, multiple schools across the nation have either a day, night, or week reserved to celebrate diversity within their communities through STOMP Out Bullying's National Culture Week¹;
2. **Whereas**, Polaris lacks an adaptation to these types of events that encourage cultural representation and appreciation among students, their families, and the staff;
3. **Whereas**, the elementary and secondary student's primary direct interactions only happen through spontaneous planned activities between secondary advisories and elementary family groups. Activities like the "all-school seminar" no longer exist in Polaris;
4. **Whereas**, according to the second definition from Oxford Languages for the word "culture" states that "the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group."²;
5. **Whereas**, the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration will focus on the ethnic and home aspects of the lives of Polarians;
6. **Whereas**, the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration would happen twice during the school year, once each semester, during the second week of the second and fourth quarters of the school year, ideally following a five day Monday-Friday schedule;
7. **Whereas**, advisories will use part of the first week of the second and fourth quarter as a preparation period to decide how they'll lead conversations on the first and second day of the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration;
8. **Whereas**, the first day of the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration would be spent with advisory-family group partners to meet and discuss the meaning of cultural identity and how to appreciate others. While also teaching the ideas of "culture shock" and how to be respectful towards others with different practices and beliefs;

9. **Whereas**, for the second day, or rest of the week should they choose, all students and staff will be encouraged to dress in their traditional dressings of their respective cultures, this includes makeup, hair, and clothing. Then advisory-family group partners will regroup to discuss their traditional apparel and why it's important to them and their family;
10. **Whereas**, the third and fourth day would be spent with the advisory-family group partners working together to create a banner that includes all students and teacher's illustrations and ideas. On the fourth day, the banners would then be hung on the railing of the foyer, in style of advisory banners being hung during homecoming/homegoing;
11. **Whereas**, on the fifth day it would be encouraged for advisory-family group partners to continue the conversation of cultural identity through food and language, should they choose, with a potluck between the family group and their corresponding advisory partner;
12. **Whereas**, during the fourth quarter Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration the banner from the second quarter will be hung. The activity for the third and fourth day will be replaced with "ice breaker" games or other activities that promote sharing and learning about different cultures within Polaris's community that change each year; and
13. **Whereas**, the Polaris Week of Cultural Celebration will have a section in the yearbook from both weeks, with any pictures submitted by family group and advisory teachers or students and their families along with the yearbook committee.

Therefore, be it resolved by Operational Group, Polaris K-12 will have a week dedicated to celebrating and embracing the diversity among Polarians to encourage appreciation and representation through traditions, languages, and foods.

Action Statement: If passed, the author will bring the resolution to teachers and k-5 family groups for their thoughts or suggestions. Along with the Operational Group voting on set dates for the week to take place and in the third quarter to vote on which activities will take place on the third and fourth day.

Sources:

1. "National Culture Week." *STOMP Out Bullying*,
<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/national-culture-week>.
2. "Oxford Languages and Google - English | Oxford Languages." *Oxford Languages*,
<https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>.