

Buffalo Elementary celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Story and photos by Vanessa Goodwyn

Cinco de Mayo, the celebration of Mexico's Independence Day, has become a much-anticipated event at Buffalo Elementary School. BES has a large percentage of Hispanic students -- currently 43% of the total enrollment -- with a very active, involved group of parents.

The annual celebration is spear-headed by ESL Campus Coordinator Janeen Cobb, but almost everybody "gets into the act". This year's celebration on Tuesday included seven costumed dance numbers. The school lunch even followed the theme of the day, with "Taco Boats" as the main course.

ESL classes from Pre-K through 4th grade had prepared dance numbers for the program and the result was a delightful production that included traditional and modern Mexican music. Parent volunteers taught the dances, as well as making the colorful costumes which added so much to the show. The students performed for the rest of the elementary students in the morning as a "dress rehearsal", and again in the afternoon for a large crowd of appreciative parents, grandparents and siblings.

The kids were especially delighted when the elementary teachers and parent volun-



Juan Vasquez and Scarlet Carrillo prove that 1st graders know how to "cut a rug"!



ABOVE: Joel Avalos and Stefani Trejo shine on stage.



RIGHT: Of pros... Pre-K students Omar Almeida and Monica Diaz displayed dance skills that belied their tender years.



Mrs. Freeman's second graders perform a traditional dance. Parent volunteers helped create authentic costumes for each performance.

teers were brought into the act -- albeit reluctantly -- to dance to the ever-popular "Toodi-Ta" song -- en espanol! (You had to be there....)

The Cinco de Mayo program put on by the Spanish classes at Buffalo High School is a biennial event, put on once every two years under the direction of Margarita Reeder. 2009 is an "off" year for the production, so there was no show... but we'll be looking forward to next year!



ABOVE: Kindergartners Luis Carrillo and Maria Dominguez strike a pose after performing to a modern number "Mambo #5".



LEFT: Pre-K students Jaxon Jones and Julissa Lechuga had to fight off a little stage fright to perform their class' dance to "La Raspa."



ABOVE: Smooth! Fourth grader Ulises Guerrero struts his stuff, proving that not ALL good guys wear white hats!



LEFT: Brenda Montano and Gustavo Rodriguez and their classmates sure knew what to do with Tejano music!