Las raíces del Señor Vargas

En honor de Herbierto Vargas

THE ROOTS OF SEÑOR VARGAS

In Honor of Mr. Heriberto Vargas



By Sra. Holland's Class

Eagle Heights
Spanish Immersion,
4th grade

Las raíces del Señor Vargas: The Roots of Señor Vargas In Honor of Mr. Heriberto Vargas

By Sra. Holland's 4th Graders Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion

Research, Writing and Illustrations by Sra. Holland's 4th Graders

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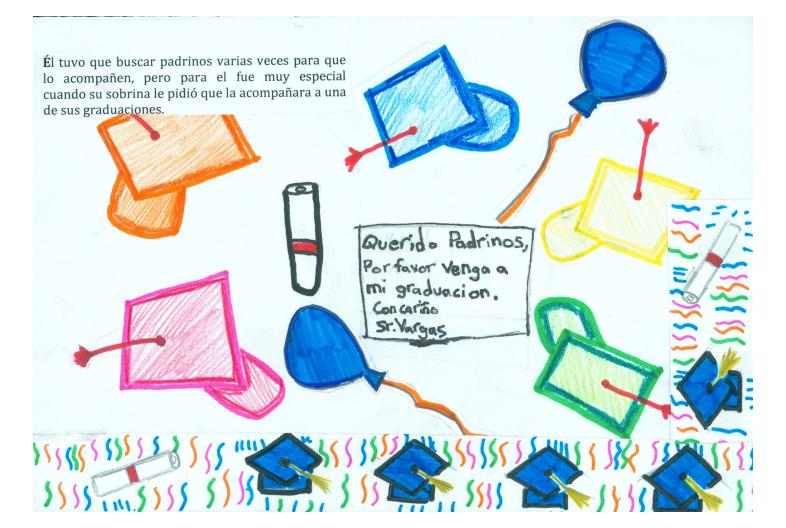






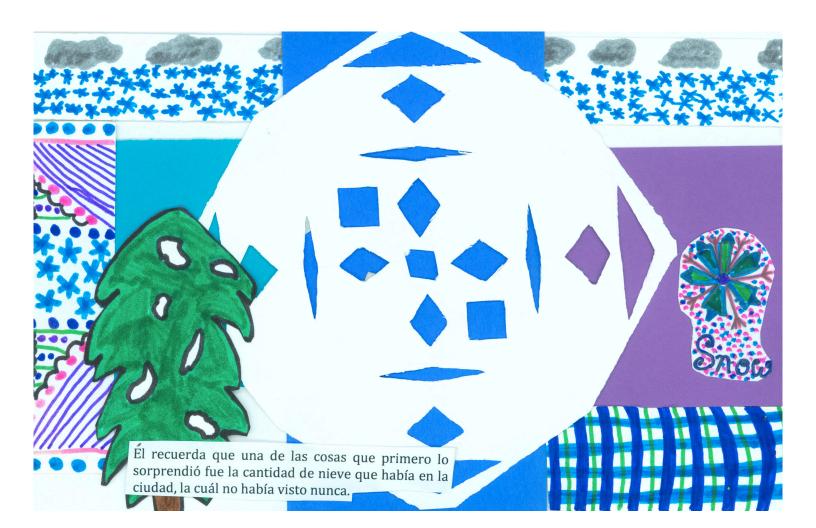




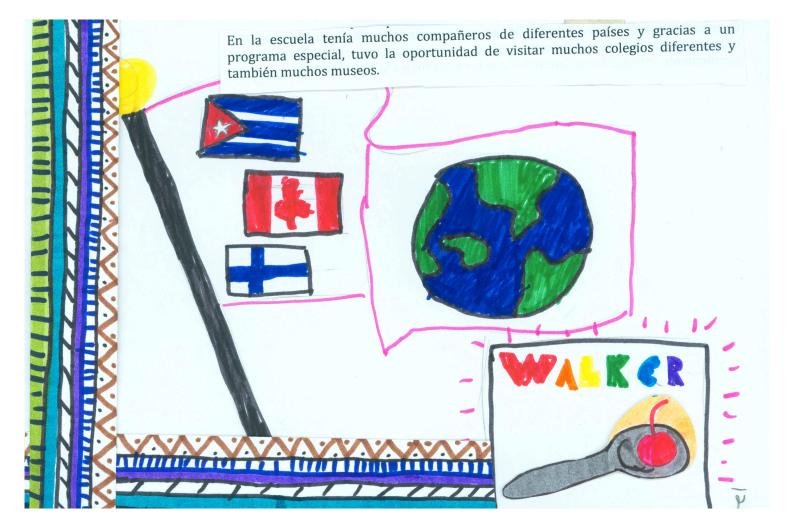
























Sra. Holland's Class and Señor Vargas

Mr. Vargas lived on a farm in Nopalera, Guanajuato, which is a state in Mexico. Guanajuato means, "place of frogs". His dad was José Guadalupe and his mom Paula. He has two names; the first belongs to his father and the second to his mother. He is one of the seven children of a great family.

His family lived in a small house on a farm, because of this he lived with many animals, among these, donkeys and goats. When the animals were born, he and his brothers liked to care for them and feed them. His family planted corn not to sell it; but to eat it. Thanks to this, they became farmers. When they farmed they did not use any chemicals, used only water and the wealth of the earth.

After some years, their brothers and sisters started having babies, which led him to become an uncle. His family liked to celebrate important events with rich meals prepared with natural foods. One of these great feasts are held on May 15, the day of San Isidro, the patron saint of farmers.

He had to find godparents several times to accompany him for his graduations. It became very special for him when his niece asked him to accompany her to one of their graduations.

He learned how to swim in a river, Laja river, near his home. Once, when he was swimming in the river, a donkey pushed his brother into the water. When he was a child, he fell from a horse because he was not using a saddle. Until today, there still is a visible scar on his head.

At the age of 16 years, Mr. Vargas had to leave Nopalera, Guanajuato (the town had more or less than 100 inhabitants). He remembers that one of the first things that struck him was the amount of snow that had been in Minneapolis when he arrived. He had never seen snow before. He lived with several siblings, cousins and friends in a house.

When he arrived in the United States he began school only a week after arriving. He went to school at Southwest in Minneapolis. When he arrived, he didn't know any English. The first four days of school he was lost in the hallways. In school, he had many colleagues from different countries and thanks to a special program, he had the opportunity to visit many different schools and also many museums. He had a teacher named Miss K. He took IB classes with only white people. One day he was asked why you are here? In America, Mr. Vargas saw a lot of discrimination, including these classes of IB English.

Mr. Vargas learned and improved in English with the help of Miss K. He didn't like to talk English, but all his friends spoke English so he had to learn necessarily. Miss K. was one of the first people who advised him to go to the university, since she was confident that he could do it successfully. Go to the university, Miss K said. It was a very important step for him. He would be the first member of his family to have some higher studies.

Today, working with children in the schools of Eden Prairie his is passion, along with running. In total, the Mr Vargas has lived in the United States 17 years ago, in other words, the half of his life.

About This Book:

Las raíces del Señor Vargas: The Roots of Señor Vargas was produced through the Young Publishers program of Community Celebration of Place. This non-profit, created by artist Larry Long, works with schools and communities to build intergenerational and multicultural opportunities for all to prosper.

The Young Publishers program grew out of a partnership with the West Metro Education Program (WMEP). This year's focus of Young Publishers is to honor men of color. This book and others in this series are being integrated into the yearly curriculum of schools and are being made available for download online at: www.communitycelebration.org

Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion students wish to celebrate and elevate the stories of our Latino friends and elders through a process of listening, reading, speaking and writing in the Spanish language. This process honors the elder's heritage-language, culture and life story.



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