

Social Justice Photo Essay

By: Ariel Wiener

Demographics of Public School X

▶ General Information:

- ▶ Grades Served: Prek-5
- ▶ Student Enrollment: 843
- ▶ Admissions Method: Zoned School

▶ Student Demographics:

- ▶ Asian: 7%
- ▶ Black: 9%
- ▶ Hispanic: 79%
- ▶ White: 2%
- ▶ English Language Learners: 21%
- ▶ Students with Special needs: 20%

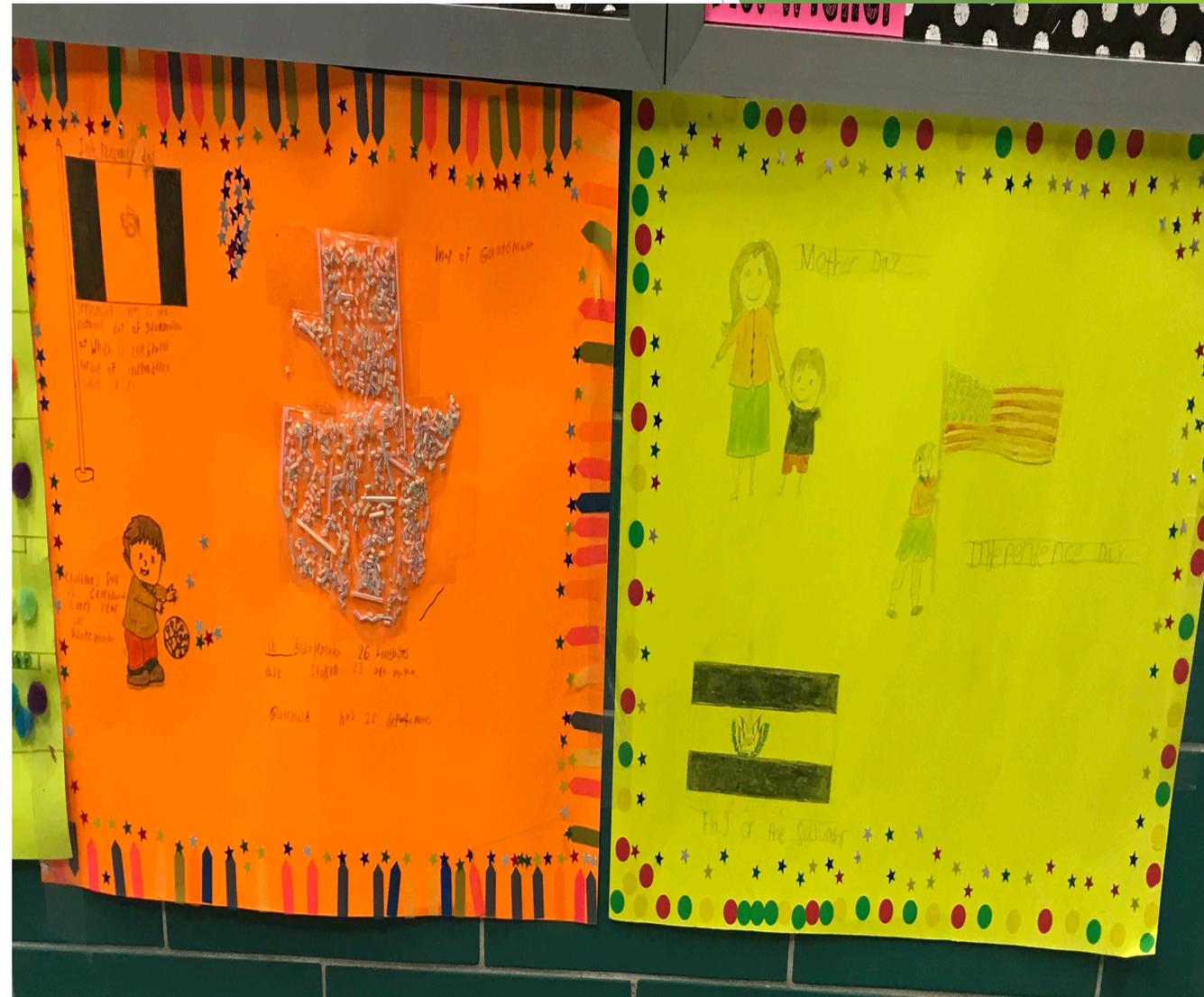
IDENTITY

Overview of Standard:

The identity standard helps students to develop a positive personal identity. Students will also be able to recognize and understand that people have multiple identities which create unique individuals.

Explanation of Photo:

This photo is of one of the many 100 day culture projects posted around our school. This year, instead of typical 100 day projects, students were encouraged to include their culture on their projects in addition to 100 objects. This project was very important in having students not only display and discuss their cultural background, but in affording them the opportunity to learn about their peers in a way that may not have otherwise. Students were also able to proudly talk about their culture and what they included on their projects and why.



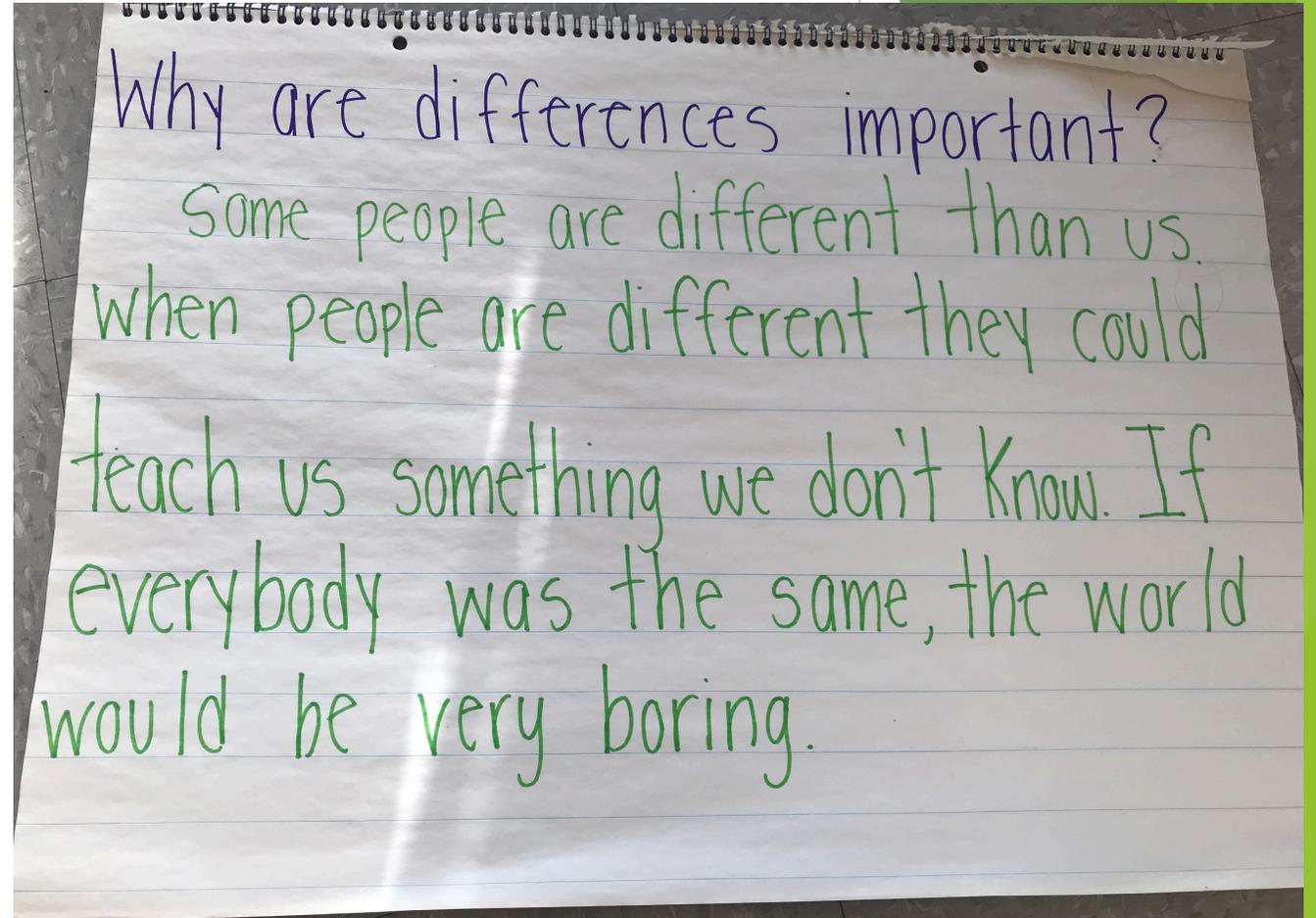
Diversity

Overview of Standard:

The diversity standard encourages students to be comfortable with those who are both similar and different to them and treat all people respectfully.

Explanation of Photo:

This photo is of a chart that I keep hung in my classroom. During the first week of school, I always read the Todd Parr book It's Okay to be Different. After reading the book, we have a class discussion about why differences are important. As a class, we then create the chart that you see in the photo. This teaches children to not only be tolerant of those who are different, but to embrace these differences and use them as a learning opportunity.



Justice

Overview of Standard:

The Justice standard helps students to understand and recognize stereotypes and in turn relate to people as individuals, not as representing a group. Students will also recognize unfairness.

Explanation of Photo

In our school we have a school wide motto known as SOAR. Each month, students focus on a new character trait by hearing a story, discussing what the traits mean and then trying to emulate that trait in their daily lives. This month our trait is understanding. Students are encouraged to see things through the view point of others and reflect on whether or not they are treating others fairly in their daily lives.



Action

Overview of Standard:

The action standard will not only teach students to recognize injustices but to also speak up when they or someone they know has been a victim of injustice due to bias.

Explanation of Photo

In my school we have student ambassadors. These ambassadors (5th grade students) go around to classrooms and talk to students about bullying. Students not only talk about what bullying is, but the steps students should take if they or someone they know is a victim. This photo is on the student ambassador bulletin board in my school and serves as a reminder that there are actions students can take if they feel personally victimized or are witness to someone being mistreated.



What is the purpose of having Social Justice Standards?

There is a new initiative within the NYC public schools in which teachers are urged to attend an implicit bias workshop. I feel that the social justice standards in part, instill the notions we as educators are urged to learn in children. As America continues to become more and more diverse, students need to be sensitive to, accepting of and aware of differences. The social justice standards which are divided into four domains: identity, diversity, justice, and action address the fact that students need to be given an anti-bias education from the get-go. The standards serve as a platform to help teachers engage students in social justice and multicultural and anti-bias issues. The first standard, identify, aims to help students create positive social identities based upon their memberships across multiple groups. The second standard, diversity, emphasizes the importance of students being comfortable with those who are both the same and different from them. The third standard of justice places importance on students' ability to recognize stereotypes and relate to people as individuals rather than representing a group. The fourth and last standard of action emphasizes the importance of students not only recognizing injustices, but also speaking up against them.

References

- ▶ Chiariello, E. (n.d.). Social Justice Standards. The Teaching Tolerance Anti-Bias Framework
- ▶ Data Collection: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/school-quality>
 - ▶ The direct link to my school was not used, this is the general website where you can search schools and an explanation of different information.