Multicultural Programs for Kids and Tweens at the Library

Jennifer Burke, Children’s Librarian, DeWitt Community Library, jburke@onlib.org

Day of the Dead Party
• Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, is a Mexican holiday celebrating the lives of departed friends and family members; falls between October 31 and November 2, so this could be incorporated into Halloween programming
• We planned a two-hour program for ages 8 and up, but this can be adjusted depending on your budget, staff, and community. Some activities you can provide:
  o Calavera Make-Up – hire a make-up artist or professional face painter so participants can have their faces decorated like a calavera (skull)
  o Sugar Skulls Craft – these can be made edible or non-edible, but they require prepping 1-2 days before program!
    http://www.mexicansugarskull.com/sugar_skulls/instructions.html
  o Paper Skull Masks
  o Movie – show The Book of Life (2014)
  o Coloring Pages
  o Perler Bead Calaveras – you can find a lot of templates on Pinterest
  o Book Display - make sure to display books from your collection 😊
  o Food – pan de muerto (sweet bread), chips and salsa, Mexican hot chocolate, cupcakes, cookies (kids could decorate as an activity)

Foods of India
• Part of DCL’s Terrific Thursdays series of fall programming for homeschooling families
• We planned for Grades K-12; this is the type of program that works well for children, teens and adults and can be adjusted to fit your audience
• Outreach Coordinator of South Asia Center at Syracuse University presented this workshop for free with the goal of teaching students about basic ingredients and techniques for cooking Indian food. She also addressed Indian geography and cultures.
• She presented a PowerPoint and then we had a hands-on demonstration for making roti, an Indian flatbread. Kids LOVED this!
• We also provided vegetarian dishes – Dal (lentils) and Chana Masala (chickpeas) – from a local Indian restaurant for kids to taste. This was a great way for them to use their homemade roti to “scoop” up the food.
  • All ingredients and materials were provided from South Asia Center; the library paid for the food from the Indian restaurant
  • Be sure to display books from your collection about the countries of South Asia (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the region of Tibet).