

The DEI Newsletter

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Book Clubs

K-2 Book:

"A Crown for Corina" by Laekan Zea Kemp, Illustrated by Elisa Chavarri

3rd-4th Grade

"My Papi Has a Motorcycle" by Isabel Quintero

5th-6th Grade

"Schomburg: The Man who Built a Library" by Carole Boston Weatherford, Illustrated by Eric Velasquez and *"Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation"* by Duncan Tonatiuh

7th Grade-Upper School

Selected stories from, *"A Phoenix First Must Burn"* Edited by Patrice Caldwell, *"Labyrinths Selected Stories & Other Writings"* by Jorge Luis Borges, and *"Speculative Fiction for Dreamers: A Latinx Anthology"* by Alex Hernandez

Our K-8 stories are selected by our lower and middle school librarian, Kristyn Dorfman. 6th-12th graders will have an opportunity to join our monthly book club lunch and learns.

I hope you will join me in reading and discussing stories that celebrate the beauty and richness of Hispanic culture.

Discourse

This column is designated to remind us that we can and should ask difficult questions. Learning requires inquiry, information, and discourse. This month's academic inquiry is, *What is the distinction between Hispanic, Latin-American, and Latinx?*

Hispanic refers to a native of, or descendent from a Spanish-speaking country. This term centers language as the key identifier. Historical note: The term Hispanic was first officially used as a distinct ethnic category in the 1970 U.S. Census.

Latino/Latina refers to cultures and ethnicities in the Caribbean, Central, and South America who may or may not speak Spanish.

Latinx refers to descendants of Latin American countries but centers gender neutrality and inclusivity.

Language is indeed fluid, and identification markers are meant to guide but not limit how we understand people. The emphasis should be on respect and care, which naturally allows us to celebrate the complexity of individual identities.

Student Voice

What do you love the most about your Hispanic heritage?

"What I value most about my Hispanic background is the strong sense of family and community that it brings with it. When I visit my relatives in Peru, I feel as if I'm entering a realm of connection. Our large family reunions, which feature excellent traditional delicacies such as tiradito and aji de gallina, let me feel connected to my heritage. In the United States, I maintain that sense of connection by seeking comfort in the local Hispanic community and sharing Peruvian traditions with friends. This combination of promoting my culture in Peru and America makes me proud of my ancestry and keeps me connected to my Peruvian roots."

By: Sofia Schwarz '26

Events

We are excited to announce the following events in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

- Lower School Read Aloud
- Middle School Book Club Lunch and Learn
- High School Book Club Lunch and Learn
- Student Led Lunch and Learn
- Sol Bake Sale
- Flik Features Hispanic Culinary Delights

