

Local elementary students journey 'around the world'

By REBECCA BERDAR
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Juniata College students gave Jules Verne a run for his money this week as they led Huntingdon area elementary students on a trip across foreign lands during "Around the World in 90 Minutes," a language outreach program now in its second year.

The youngsters didn't even have to leave their school; Juniata brought the world to them.

The program was held at Standing Stone and Jackson Miller elementary schools Tuesday evening and at Brandy-Henderson-Mill Creek and Southside elementaries Thursday evening.

Approximately 40 Southside students and their parents attended the event at Southside.

"I think its great — and really educational," said Pena Regitz, whose son, Sam, a first grader at Southside, was eagerly testing out chopsticks at the Chinese Club station. "The kids are really enjoying this. They should probably do this more often."

"The chopsticks were fun," said Michael Cunningham, a kindergarten student. "I picked up a Cheerio and I stabbed some raisins."

"It's really great they have the whole family involved," said Michael's mom, Jennifer Cunningham. "We've having a good time."

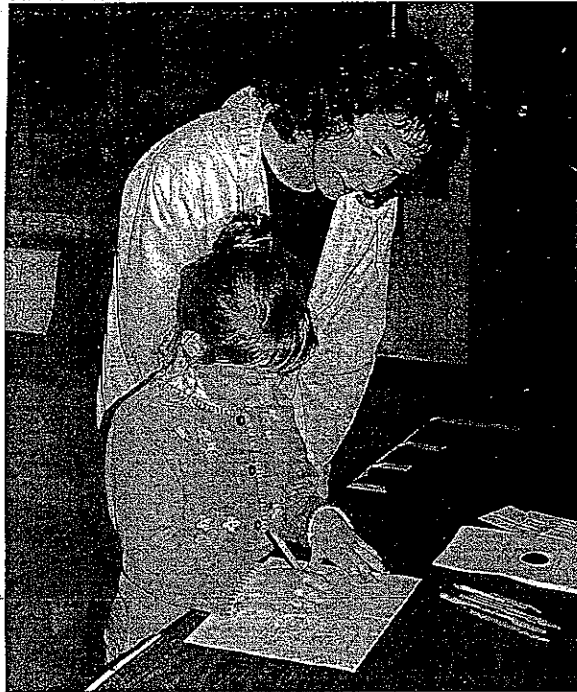
Chinese Club president Freddie Yip, Hong Kong, said, "I think this is all very exciting. It's a difficult time for us, with finals coming up, but (the Juniata students) all worked very hard to be here to share their cultures."

Hanna Hess, a kindergarten student, was enthusiastic about the French Club sing-along.

"It's fun singing 'Old McDonald' in French," she said softly, her eyes sparkling. Students learned that "un poussin" is a chick, "une poule" is a hen and "un cochon" is a pig, thanks to French Club members who led students through a tour of a French barnyard.

The Spanish Club taught students a few songs in Spanish and the college's Language in Motion program hosted a storytelling station, where exchange students relayed popular tales from their native lands. The Model United Nations organization helped students create their own passports. During Tuesday night's program, United Cultures of Juniata College taught the young students international dances.

"I guess we wanted to just think of an outreach activity that would involve students who had returned from abroad and our current international students," said Kati Csoman, international adviser. Last



Photos by Rebecca Berdar

Juniata College took Southside Elementary School students on a trip across the globe Thursday evening during the "Around the World in 90 Minutes" cultural outreach program. Above, kindergarten student Jordyn Hinkle fills out her own passport with help from her mom, Anna Hinkle. Below, from left to right, first grader Owen Brown and third graders Alex Miller, Tyler Brown and Adam Fouse learn the art of dining with chopsticks from members of Juniata's Chinese Club.



year, the pilot year, "We had (a total of) over 600 students and families attend," she recalled. "I was overwhelmingly amazed at the participation."

Csoman added, "Generally it

was pretty well-received," in its first year. "Everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity. The schools are really into hosting evening activities and everyone enjoyed the interaction and the activities were so diverse."