Whole School Inclusion of Immigrant Students
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- Celebrating Diversity
- A Welcoming School
- Student Centered Environment
- Roles of the School and Community
Celebrating Diversity

We can:

✓ Recognize celebrations from other cultures and religions.
✓ Encourage students to share their experiences with the class or school (through a presentation, art, music, storytelling, dance, drama).
✓ Encourage students to share their language.
✓ Explore diversity through children's literature and young adult titles.
✓ Invite parent presentations.
Celebrate Holidays such as….

- **Ramadan** is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar based on the moon. It is a holy month of fasting followed by a three day feast called Eid [e⁣d]. During Eid, people eat traditional food, visit family and friends and buy new clothes.

- **Diwali**, the festival of lights, is celebrated in October or early November by Hindus. Lakshmi [Lahk-shmee], the Goddess of fortune, is the honoured deity of the festival.

- **Chinese New Year** starts with the new moon on the first day of the first month of the Chinese calendar. It is a time of reunion and thanksgiving.
A Welcoming School

To foster a welcoming environment:

✓ Involve students in extra-curricular activities with Canadian born peers.

✓ Ensure students interact with Canadian born peers.

✓ Involve students in school announcements, assemblies, concerts, etc.

✓ Ensure messages sent home are written in simple, plain language.
✓ Plan a multicultural talent show; involve students from the entire school population.

✓ Invite parents for a potluck meal.

✓ Invite parents to volunteer in the school.

✓ Hold formal presentations.

✓ Create a liaison with multicultural associations.

✓ Create a multicultural bulletin board for upcoming events and news.
Student Centered Environment: Everyone has a role to play.
The Association for New Canadians is the official settlement agency for refugees.

The ANC offers support to Government-Assisted Refugees. Settlement Workers in the Schools (SWIS) are a liaison between school and home.

They:

• Arrange or offer support in issues related to culture and settlement (hygiene, housing, clothing, medical concerns, etc.).
• Arrange translation services.
• Offers homework clubs at some schools, according to numbers.
• Arrange one-on-one volunteer tutors for some students.
• Arrange summer programs.
Small Group Discussion

- What do you see as the roles of each of the following regarding immigrant students?
  - Classroom Teacher
  - ESL Teacher
  - Special Education Teacher
  - Administration
  - Guidance
  - Peers/Classmates
  - School Support Staff

- What community organizations can be contacted for support?
Conclusion

- All staff have a role to play in inclusion of immigrant children.
- Community organizations can be contacted for support.

Questions? Comments?
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