



Teacher bringing world to students

By Cory Young World Staff Writer
3/2/2005

Ares McLain, a first-grader at Greeley Elementary School, wants to live in Germany.

And it's all because of the "Traveling Around the World Without Leaving the Classroom" program.

Flor McClary, a combination first- and second-grade teacher at the school, 105 E. 63rd Street North, began the activity on Feb. 11. It takes place at noon every other Thursday during social studies time.

The first visitor discussed Japan. Last week, Germany was the topic.

Ares loved to hear about Germany.

"We learned about the cookies and the candy they have over there," he said. "We heard about the stuff they make over there, like cars and buildings. That's why I want to live in Germany."

McClary, a native of the Philippines, said she started the program so youngsters at the north Tulsa school could learn about different countries.

"That it's not only about the north side, that there is so much diversity and so many cultures out there," McClary said.

McClary often talks to her students about her upbringing in the Philippines.

"Life is hard there. My parents taught me to work hard, so that I wouldn't have to flip burgers when I moved to America," she said.

McClary said there is a difference between Filipino and American children.

"We were taught that education was the top priority," said McClary, 52.

She came to the United States in 1982, but did not become a teacher until six years ago.

Her goal for the 24 first- and second-graders in her class was to explore and expose them to world cultures, including the Philippines.

"She tells us about the (bird) eggs over there. She passes them around and lets us hold them inside the container," said 7-year-old Ares.

Arnold Beiber, a member of the German American Society of Tulsa's speakers bureau, spoke to the class on Feb. 24.

Beiber talked about the similarities between the German and English languages.

He told about how some words have the same meaning, but slightly different sounds like the English word "water" and the German word "vasser."

"It gives them an idea of what the German language is all about," Beiber said.

RELATED PHOTOS & GRAPHICS



Greeley Elementary School first-grader Ares McLain points at Germany on a map during “Traveling Around the World Without Leaving the Classroom,” a program geared toward helping children learn about the world.
CORY YOUNG / Tulsa World



Arnold Beiber



Flor McClary