

Fairlington Villages Little U.N.

*Abingdon
School
Hall
(new?)*

I am president of the Abingdon Elementary School Parent Teachers Association and by being in very close contact with the school I have learned a great deal about it. Abingdon has a wonderful staff, delightful children and interested parents. We have children from many parts of the world so I have dubbed Abingdon "The Little United Nations". The table below lists each country and the language spoken along with the number of children enrolled.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u># ENROLLED</u>	<u>LANGUAGE SPOKEN</u>
1. Brazil	1	Portuguese
2. Burma	2	Burmese
3. Cambodia	5	Cambodian
4. Egypt, Iraq	6	Arabic
5. Greece	1	Greek
6. Guatemala, Chile, Puerto Rico, Peru, Philippines	15	Spanish
7. Hungary	1	Hungarian
8. India	1	Bengali
9. India	1	Gujarti
10. India	5	Hindi
11. Iran	2	Iranian (persian)
12. Italy	1	Italian
13. Jamaica	4	Jamaican English
14. Korea	41	Korean
15. Nigeria	3	Nigerian
16. Pakistan	8	Urdu
17. Philippines	8	Tagalog
18. Russia	2	Russian
19. Taiwan	6	Chinese
20. U.S.A.	2	Hawaiian
21. U.S.A.	2	Jemez Pueblo Indian
22. Vietnam	17	Vietnamese

Abingdon provides a class for the above students which is called ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). This class attempts to provide children with basic "survival English" so they can begin to function in their regular classrooms and community, but at the same time there is an effort made to retain the child's native culture.

Mrs. Marion Wince, who is a resident of South Fairlington, met with us and offered to teach parents of these children to speak English or anyone else who was interested. This adult class began on October 12, 1976. Mrs. Wince felt that she could handle a class of not more than 10, but she didn't have the heart to turn anyone away so she now has a class of 17 students. This class is taught completely free of charge on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

at Abingdon School with baby sitting services provided by the P.T.A. This adult class is sponsored by the P.T.A., but Mrs. Wince deserves all the credit. Without her this class would not exist.

In October the P.T.A. had an international dinner. Each family brought a dish typical to his native land and each family from the United States brought a dish typical to the section of the states from which he came. The dinner was a great success. The diners had a lot of fun sampling dishes they had never tasted before and the nicest thing about the whole affair was that everyone had a wonderful time meeting each other and learning something about other cultures.

People are people regardless of where they come from and even when we can't communicate because of a language barrier, a smile and a kind gesture go along way. These people at Abingdon know that this is their school and I hope they will always be able to remember Abingdon School as a rewarding experience.

By: Betty Ann Beckerman

Ed,
This is our North Farmington
School. Thought it might be of interest.
Walt

SENT TO MR TRAHAN