



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Fwd: [External Email] Fwd: Celebrating Cultural Inclusion- Recognition of Three Kings Day.

1 message

Lynn Piascyk <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>

Wed, Jan 7, 2026 at 12:59 PM

To: Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Cc: Steven Lawrence <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>, Christopher Montini <cmontini@woodbridgeps.org>

Marsha,
Please include this correspondence in the Board packet for our next regular Board of Education meeting.
Many thanks,
Lynn

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alexandra Cohen** <alexandra.cohen.fajardo@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 6, 2026 at 8:54 PM

Subject: [External Email] Fwd: Celebrating Cultural Inclusion- Recognition of Three Kings Day.

To: <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>, <sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org>, <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Members of the Board,

I am forwarding the message I recently sent to the Superintendent regarding the recognition of Three Kings Day in Woodbridge schools and throughout our community.

I am writing from both a personal and communal place. I am Latino, and my children are both Latino and Jewish. In our home, culture, faith, and identity are not separate they coexist, enrich one another, and shape how my children see themselves and the world around them. When our schools acknowledge and respect the diverse traditions represented in our community, they send a powerful message to students: you belong, and who you are matters.

Recognizing cultural observances such as Three Kings Day is not about excluding others; it is about inclusion, representation, and education. It provides an opportunity for students of all backgrounds to learn about different cultures, traditions, and histories, fostering empathy and mutual respect. These moments help create school environments where diversity is not only present, but valued.

Woodbridge is a diverse community, and our schools should reflect that diversity in meaningful ways. When students see their cultures acknowledged, it strengthens their sense of pride and connection to their schools. When students learn about cultures beyond their own, it broadens their understanding and prepares them to be thoughtful, respectful members of a diverse society.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this perspective as you plan for the next school year and for your continued commitment to equity, inclusion, and the well-being of all students and families in our district.

I want to add - I was a parent member when Beecher worked on the vision statement with Dr. Budd, and I know how equity and inclusion is valued in our school.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Cohenn

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alexandra Cohen** <alexandra.cohen.fajardo@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 5, 2026 at 1:23 PM

Subject: Celebrating Cultural Inclusion- Recognition of Three Kings Day.

To: <Jennifer.Byars@amityregion5.org>, <cmontini@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Members of the Woodbridge Community and Amity School District Leadership,

I am writing as a parent and community member to respectfully share the importance of recognizing Three Kings Day (Día de los Reyes Magos) and to celebrate the district's continued commitment to cultural inclusion.

Recently, I was encouraged to see Woodbridge acknowledge and celebrate Indian holidays. That recognition sends a powerful message of inclusion, respect, and belonging to students and families across our community. It reflects an understanding that our schools are enriched when diverse cultures, traditions, and beliefs are honored.

My family and I are Latino and Jewish, and Three Kings Day is a meaningful cultural and religious tradition we celebrate each year. I currently have children attending Beecher Road School and Amity High School, and next year I will also have a child at Bethany Middle School. Since moving to Woodbridge, my children have asked why this holiday is not recognized or celebrated in our town or schools. Those questions have stayed with me and reflect a genuine desire from children to see their identities and traditions acknowledged.

For many Latino families, Three Kings Day holds deep significance—representing faith, generosity, family, and history. Recognition of this observance, even in a small but visible way, would help affirm the identities of many students and families within our district.

I felt empowered to bring this to your attention after conversations with other families during the holiday season, where this topic came up organically. These discussions highlighted a shared interest in seeing continued growth in how we recognize and celebrate the diversity that already exists within our school communities.

As you know, diversity extends beyond race or language—it includes traditions, holidays, and belief systems that shape who our children are. When schools acknowledge these traditions, students feel seen, respected, and valued, which strengthens both learning and community connection.

This is something that could be thoughtfully considered as the district plans for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for your continued efforts to foster an inclusive environment where all families feel represented. I appreciate your leadership and consideration, and I look forward to seeing our district continue to grow as a place where diversity is celebrated in all its forms.

With appreciation,

Alexandra Cohen

Woodbridge, CT

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