



Dear (Panelist name),

My name is Wendy Stewart and I am the Diversity and Inclusion Chairperson for the East Cobb County Council of PTAs (ECCC PTA). I am writing to invite you to participate in an exciting program designed to foster understanding and appreciation among the various cultures and faiths of our East Cobb community and further the inclusion of all families and students in our council's thirty-five schools.

From our national parent organization, to our local school organizations, the mission of the PTA is to serve every child with one voice. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee takes this mission especially to heart. It is the goal of our committee to create programs and initiatives which expose our students to world cultures, encourage participation by all groups within our school communities, and promote understanding among ethnicities, cultures, and faiths.

On Monday, March 21st, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, the ECCC PTA Diversity and Inclusion Committee will hold a "Cultural Summit" at the East Cobb Public Library. Representatives from across the cultures and faiths of East Cobb will serve as panelists in an honest, open, and respectful question and answer program teachers, administrators, and PTA leaders. Participants will be invited to ask questions of panelists regarding topics such as their culture, traditions, faith, holidays, and, in particular, their perspectives on education. The representative should ideally be someone who has deep experience with and understanding of their community, culture, and traditions. Questions may range from things like "What is a tilak?" or "Is Chanukah the most important Jewish holiday?" to "How do Hispanic parents view their role with respect to their children's education?" There will be a strict emphasis on respect, honesty, and understanding during the meeting. No political or religious debate or argument will be allowed. This forum is strictly for the purposes of educating those in attendance about the participating cultures and faiths so that they can facilitate the understanding of those cultures/faiths at school and further everyone's inclusion in school programs. The goal of the summit is to educate our teachers, administrators, and PTA representatives about the cultures and faiths of the families that make up their school communities, thereby making them better liaisons between their communities and the school.

We in the PTA's Diversity Community know that understanding and acceptance are the keys to inclusion and peace. I am excited about the opportunity this Cultural Summit will provide to further understanding, acceptance, and inclusion here in East Cobb. Please help us by agreeing to serve as a representative of (Panelist's Culture) to further our collective understanding and ensure that all our East Cobb communities are heard, understood, and included!

Please feel free to contact me via email or phone to confirm your participation or with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Wendy Stewart

ECCC PTA Diversity & Inclusion Chair

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