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Children, Literacy, and Multiculturalism Intersect At Boise 's "Children's Day/Dia de Los Ninos" Celebration

(BOISE) – The Boise Public Library will celebrate Children's Day/Dia de los Ninos on Saturday, April 26 with a full slate of family activities focusing on literacy, learning, and cultural diversity. The festivities, which include a bilingual performance by the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, are free and open to the public.

"This day is truly a unique celebration in that it brings together and honors children, books, languages, and cultures," said Brian Cronin, co-owner of Garabatos Spanish Preschool, which is organizing and sponsoring the event. "We've put together a fun and stimulating program that showcases Boise's growing diversity and impressive multicultural and multilingual resources."

Following is the schedule of activities:

- 11:00 *Welcome*
- 11:05 *Music/dance Performance by Garabatos Spanish Preschool students*
- 11:25 *"Tomas and the Library Lady" a bilingual performance by Idaho Shakespeare Festival*
- 12:20 *Tiernan Irish Dancers*
- 12:40 *Mexican Folkloric Dancing with Norma Pintar*
- 1:00 *Balloon Animals*
- 1:1 *Rhythm Dogs*
- 1:35 *Tours of the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial (adjacent to Library)*

Arts & crafts activities will be ongoing throughout the three hours. Food and refreshments will also be available.

Children's Day began in 1925 following the first "World Conference for the Well Being of Children" in Geneva, Switzerland and was designed to call attention to the importance and well being of children. It was then designated by the United Nations for November 20, by UNICEF for April 23, and by Mexico for April 30 (Día del Niño). In 1996, Pat Mora, a nationally acclaimed children's author, proposed linking the celebration of children with literacy. Her proposal was endorsed by REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos, in 1997. Subsequently, the National Association of Bilingual Education endorsed the observance.

Idaho is the first state in the nation to have an official Children's Day. Sponsored by Representatives Elmer Martinez (D-Pocatello) and Ken Robison (D-Boise), House Bill 259 named April 30 as Children's Day (El Día de los Niños) in Idaho. The bill was signed by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne on March 20, 2003 and became effective July 1, 2003.

The event will take place from 11:00 to 2:00 on Saturday, April 26 at the Boise Public Library downtown, 715 S. Capitol Blvd.

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