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MEDIA RELEASE

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Valley View Students Celebrate Diversity Through World Music Assembly

Ashwaubenon, WI – December 12, 2012 – On November 21st, Ashwaubenon’s Valley View Elementary School students and staff enjoyed an energetic world music performance by Guy Louis Sferlazza, a performing artist from Michigan. The show was very interactive, with many students and staff participating by playing instruments from around the world, singing and at one point, every person who wanted, was invited to dance during the "African Community Music" part of the show! Students saw and heard a number of beautiful and unique instruments including the Native American Drum, the Renaissance fifteen-string Lute, a wide variety of African instruments; the Sitar, Tamboura and Tabla drums from India, and a big finale with the electric guitar.

Guy has been performing assembly programs in elementary and middle schools for over 25 years. He offers nine different themes that compliment school themes such as The World Music Tour, American Music Tour, IF YOU CAN READ, Native American Music and Culture, Black History in American Music and more, all explained on his website www.guylouis.com.

While Guy drew students into the enjoyment of music, he also educated them with pertinent information about accepting others and being respectful of different cultures. Students learned about the importance of music and dance in Native America, the delicacy of the Renaissance Lute, the essential learning about music in Africa that 'music is for everyone to share the joy and fun of making music and everyone is invited', the exotic instruments from India that really impressed the students with the awesome look of the instruments and the faraway sounds, and how the electric guitar was invented in America, and a special type of music was invented because of it... rock and roll! He addressed the students directly at the end of the show with a strong message of appreciation, respect and the importance of each student: "You kids, learning about people all around the world, learning to work together with people who have different ideas (all cultures have different ideas), and you're learning to work together, to take care of each other, and to take care of our beautiful world".

For more information, please contact Rebecca Thieme-Baeseman, Valley View Elementary GLOBE Resource Teacher, at 920-492-2935 extension 3103 or rthieme-baeseman@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us

Picture ASD-VV-WorldMusicAssembly.jpg attached. Caption “Performing artist Guy Louis Sferlazza at Ashwaubenon’s Valley View Elementary School.”

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