Local elementary students journey ‘around the world’

BY REBECCA BERDAR

Juniata College students gave Jules Vance a run for his money this week as they led Huntingdon area elementary students on a trip across foreign lands during “Around the World in 90 Minutes,” a language outreach program now in its second year.

The youngsters didn’t even have to leave their school, Juniata brought the world to them. The program was held at Standing Stone and Jackson Miller elementary schools Tuesday evening and at Brandy-Henderson-Mill Creek and Southside elementaries Thursday evening. Approximately 40 Southside students and their parents attended the event at Southside.

“I think it’s great — and really educational,” said Pena Reglio, whose son, Sam, a first grader at Southside, was eagerly testing out chopsticks at the Chinese Club station. “The kids are really enjoying this. They should probably do this more often.”

“The chopsticks were fun,” said Michael Cunningham, a kindergarten student “I picked up a Cheerio and I stabbed some raisins.”

“It’s really great they have the whole family involved,” said Michael’s mom, Jennifer Cunningham. “We’ve having a good time.”

Chinese Club president Freddie Ying, Hong Kong, said, “I think this is all very exciting. It’s a difficult time for us, with finals coming up, but (the Juniata students) all worked very hard to be here to share their culture.”

Hamza Hess, a kindergarten student, was enthusiastic about the French Club sing-along.

“It’s fun singing ‘Ode to Joy’ in French,” she said softly, her eyes sparkling. Students learned that “un poulet” is a chicken, “une poule” is a hen and “un cochon” is a pig, thanks to French Club members who led students through a tour of a French barnyard.

The Spanish Club taught students a few songs in Spanish and the college’s Language in Motion program hosted a storytelling station, where exchange students relayed popular tales from their native lands. The Model United Nations organization helped students create their own passports. During Tuesday night’s program, United Cultures of Juniata College taught the young students international dances.

“I guess we wanted to just think of an outreach activity that would involve students who had returned from abroad and our current international students,” said Kati Co-