

# Dual Language Festival

## Lumberg Elementary School

### Edgewater, CO



Lumberg Elementary is a Title Expeditionary Learning (EL) Education school with a one way Dual Language program. We celebrated our fourth annual Spring Festival this year with great enthusiasm. Lumberg's Dual Language families poured into the school on March 21st to enjoy an evening of new literacy activities with their children. Families integrated their native Spanish language backgrounds with literacy experiences in this event with the theme *Festival cruzando puentes a través de la lectura* (Festival Crossing Bridges through Reading).



The Festival combined exploring new literacy approaches with sharing flavorful tostadas brimming over with tasty toppings which all families contributed to. Lumberg's Dual Language instructional coach and classroom teachers shared easy ways for every family to build capacity to support student success at home. Each family practiced multiple literacy activities in both Spanish and English.

After attending the event, families felt stronger in their understanding of the literacy activities they can work together on to enrich their students' learning. The activities also invited conversations that explored meaning as it related to their diverse experiences.

Lumberg's Dual Language program has families representing México, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Conversations among our families expanded to their different journeys as newcomers. Several families in the school are very recent arrivals to the United States, and others have lived in the United States for a few years. Staff observed how this shared newcomer experience added an additional layer of meaning to our family literacy night.

Anecdotally, the dual language festival was a huge success. Parents and caregivers engaged in a fun way with their students while learning about literacy activities in their native language and selected books to take home. Schools will succeed in leveraging the educational goals of their students with meaningful activities that highlight the family's role in literacy acquisition. This celebration was indeed very special as it deepened the shared experience of our students and families of their school life as dual language learners within an EL Education.

