



## Roland Park Country boosts cultural awareness with observance of Sukkot

By Meredith Bower, Baltimore Private Schools Examiner

Having just celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, people of the Jewish faith are looking forward to Sukkot, a week-long harvest holiday. This year, Roland Park Country School (RPCS) has joined with The Curriculum Initiative (TCI), a Jewish organization that works with schools, to create awareness about the celebration and its meaning.



*The RPCS community built a sukkah on its campus to create awareness of the Jewish harvest celebration.*

*Photo: RPCS*

As a result, students at RPCS who work to boost cultural awareness, have built a sukkah and will host Sukkot on their campus. Sukkot, sometimes called the Festival of Booths recalls a time in Jewish history after liberation from slavery in Egypt. It is also reminiscent of the biblical fall harvest, and the tradition of living out in the fields to ease the burden of traveling to and from the fields each day of the harvest. To celebrate the holiday which is sundown on September 22 – sundown on October 1, Jews traditionally build sukkot (singular: sukkah), temporary huts. RPCS built its sukkah on September 19 with help from the RPCS community.

During the festival, it is customary to “dwell” (eat — and even to sleep) in the sukkah. The sukkah is customarily decorated with autumn fruit and vegetables, and the roof is made of branches, providing more shade than sun, but still allowing the stars to be seen at night.

The Sukkah is a place of gathering, celebration and learning. In this all school effort, every RPCS grade level (classes, advisories, homerooms) will be able to visit and participate. The Lower School will make decorations. Technology will be used for groups to sign up. The RPCS Backwoods provided some of the greenery needed to make the roof. Sukkot at RPCS will run from September 19 – October 1.

Other area schools are invited to visit as well and should contact TCI to schedule a time.