

## Pomfret school gets grant for culture studies

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Pomfret, Conn. — Pomfret Community School has received a \$1,442 grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to sponsor cultural performances and workshops in March and April.

The grant will fund workshops and performances by author and storyteller Carol Glynn of Niantic and Peruvian musical group Mestizo Manta of Newington.

Music teacher Sally Rogers said the performances will take place during the last week of the school's cultural arts program in April. The program, in its 16th year, lets students study one culture in-depth throughout the year. This year it's Bolivia, she said.

The Parent Teacher Organization raised the matching portion of the grant through a holiday craft fair, PTO President Melissa Zahansky said. The grant was one of 55 arts presentation grants, totaling \$57,907, presented by the commission to nonprofit organizations and schools.

Rogers said Glynn will teach third-grade students Bolivian folk tales and work with them to create skits based on the folk tales, and Mestizo Manta will teach and perform music native to Bolivia and neighboring countries.

"Any time you can expose a student to another culture, you widen their world and you encourage tolerance," Rogers said.

Zahansky said the performances will enhance the students' cultural education.

"It's an unbelievable way for students to really experience the country," Zahansky said. "They remember it because they can see and touch the culture."

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