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Hillsboro School District Hosts Community Forum on Bilingual Education

*Join us for a free screening of the documentary *Speaking in Tongues* and a panel discussion to learn more*

Hillsboro, Oregon (8 March 2012) – Hillsboro School District is pleased to announce a free community forum on bilingual education taking place Wednesday, March 21, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Venetian Theatre & Bistro in downtown Hillsboro (253 E. Main Street).

One benefit of living and working in Hillsboro is the cultural and linguistic diversity of our community. To meet the growing demand from native speakers of English, Spanish, and other languages for bilingual education options in Hillsboro, the District is opening Dual Language programs in three additional schools in 2012-13: Lincoln Street, Reedville, and Witch Hazel Elementary Schools. These schools join W.L. Henry, Minter Bridge, and Eastwood Elementary Schools in offering Dual Language programs. South Meadows Middle School and Hillsboro High School (Hilhi) offer certain content area classes in Spanish as well, allowing students in the Hilhi feeder area a Spanish language strand throughout their K-12 education.

The documentary *Speaking in Tongues* will be shown from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. This film follows an African-American boy, a Mexican-American boy, a Chinese-American girl, and a Caucasian boy as they navigate language immersion programs in a quest for the language skills and cultural awareness that will open doors of opportunity to them. Next, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., a panel of speakers—parents, business and community leaders, and District staff—will discuss the importance of biliteracy and answer questions about bilingual education.

Please join us for what promises to be an interesting and informative night.

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About the Hillsboro School District: Hillsboro School District is the fourth-largest public school district in the state of Oregon. The District serves over 20,500 students in grades K-12 who reside in the cities of Hillsboro, North Plains, and parts of Cornelius, Aloha, and Sherwood. With a mission of engaging and challenging all learners to ensure academic excellence, the District is committed to offering educational options that meet the varying needs of our students, stimulate intellect, and foster a lifelong love of learning.