



## Maggio in Italia

**Ciao a tutti! I am excited to announce our third Italian - Spanish Fair on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:15-11:00.**

**Sixth, seventh and eighth grade have been busy working on their projects and are getting to present to students and faculty. This year we have added two cultural dances, a surprise center and Latin America. We hope that you will be able to join us on Tuesday for a great celebration!!!**

### **Here's whats happening in Italy....**

May in Italy celebrates the birthday of the famous Italian cartoon character of Pinocchio. Pinocchio's birthday is celebrated May 25 in the Tuscan town of Pescia.

This famous children's story known throughout the world started as a fictional character that first appeared in 1883, in *The Adventures of Pinocchio* by [Carlo Collodi](#), and has since appeared in many adaptations of that story. Carved from a piece of pine by a woodcarver named Geppetto in a small Italian village, he was created as a wooden puppet, but dreamt of becoming a real boy. The name "Pinocchio" is derived from the Italian words *pino* (pine tree), and *occhio* (eye), i.e. pine-eye. In the Tuscan dialect, *pinocchio* is the term used to refer to the pine nut.

*The Adventures of Pinocchio* comes to life in Italy's Pinocchio Park, in the village of Collodi. Carlo Collodi, Pinocchio's creator, took his writers name from Collodi, birthplace of his mother. The park tells Collodi's version of the Pinocchio story through sculpture, mosaics and puppet shows.

Pinocchio Park is a great place to take kids. A winding path leads visitors through the Village of Pinocchio as they encounter statues of characters from the story. The park also has a snack bar and picnic area, amusement park for small children, a theater for puppet shows, and a museum and gift shop. There's even an internet train to keep the parents occupied.