

Lantern Walk

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Dear Families,

Please plan to join us on the evening of **Wednesday, November 10** for our Lantern Walk, a much beloved festival for the young child and for many adults as well! Gathering near dusk and walking in the dark with only the flame from our lanterns to lead the way can be an enchanting experience and make a profound impression.

This festival marks the end of the autumn season and the start of the winter. The Lantern Walk, also known as Martinmas, is a celebration to harness the warm light of summer and the light that we each carry within ourselves. Our light needs to be protected and carried into the dark nights of the coming winter just like the flame in our lanterns!

This celebration originated in France and Germany to honor St. Martin who was known as a helper of the poor and a friend to all children. Legend has it that in the fourth century he shared his cloak with a beggar by cutting it in half to shelter the shivering man from the cold, dark night.

Please note that this festival is a reflective and reverent evening. We encourage families to walk beside their children in silence or in singing. Please find the schedule and some practical notes for the evening below.

Lantern Walk Schedule

Shining Star and Sunshine Kindergartens 4:30 p.m.

First Grade 5:00 p.m.

Second Grade 5:30 p.m.

Third Grade 6:00 p.m.

WHAT THE EVENING WILL LOOK LIKE

Students and families will arrive and gather around the fire in the parking lot of the Lower School (98. S. Lincoln St) ***prior to the start of their scheduled walk.*** Each class will begin their walk promptly at their scheduled time.

Parking is available on Church Street or surrounding neighborhoods. Please be mindful of our school parking agreements and only park on the south side of the street (pointing toward the school). Please do not park on Wilbur Street for this event.

We ask that you gather quietly around the fire and refrain from casual conversation in order to help create the mood of silence and reverence together. This is an especially important skill to teach our children, and it begins with the adults modeling inner and outer quiet and patience!

Your child's teacher will invite the class to begin the walk when it is time. Some classes may start with a short story or puppet show before lighting their lanterns. Following the path throughout our school yard, the lanterns the children have made will light the way. You may even look closely to see some surprises tucked in along the pathway!

When we reach the end of the path, classes may gather and close. We ask that you leave quietly into the night. This helps to carry the reverent mood. We suggest that you refrain from playing music or making extra stops along the way and to return home quietly and to bed. You may even wish to keep the electric lights off and use candles to find your way into your evening rhythms!

PRACTICAL DETAILS

- Please dress warmly and for the weather, as the Lantern Walk will happen regardless of forecast. November evenings can be chilly and damp - warm clothes, especially waterproof, warm boots, hats - can make all the difference between a magical and miserable experience! This is true for adults as well as children.
- Please give yourself enough time to park and walk at an unhurried pace. There will be many families gathered and you may need to park quite a ways and walk.
- We ask that you gather quietly around the fire and refrain from casual

conversation in order to help create the mood of silence and reverence together. This is an especially important skill to teach our children, and it begins with the adults modeling inner and outer quiet and patience!

- Please arrive on time. Late arrivals can be very disruptive.
- Siblings are welcome, and they may bring lanterns if you have saved them from previous years or from another lantern walk.
- If you have children in multiple grades, families may choose one walk or walk with both.
- Families with children in aftercare who cannot arrive by their class' scheduled time should contact their teacher to make arrangements for the walk.
(Those children who are in aftercare will be offered warm soup and bread rolls before the walk).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are looking for donations of clear, label free glass jars in any size.

Please bring it to your child's teacher or leave outside the Shining Star Kindergarten on or before Wednesday.

Thank you!

LANTERN WALK SONGS

Below are the words of a few of the songs which the children are learning and which we will sing together on Wednesday night as we process through the lit pathways. It is by no means expected that parents will know these songs; in fact it is a beautiful thing to enter into the unknown and the new with the children and to surround oneself with beautiful music to perhaps pick up by ear. However, we thought we would offer them anyways as a little help...

*Glimmer lantern glimmer, little stars a-shimmer.
Over meadow, moor and dale flutter flutter elfin veil.
Pee-wit pee-wit, tick-a-tack-a-tick, roo-coo-roo-coo.*

*Glimmer lantern glimmer, little stars a-shimmer.
Over rock and stock and stone wander tripping little gnome.
Pee-wit, pee-wit, tick-a-tack-a-tick, roo-coo-roo-coo.*

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*I walk with my bright little lantern,*

*my lantern is going with me.*

*In heaven the stars are shining,  
on Earth shines my lantern with me.*

*The light grows dim as we go in  
La bimba la bamba la bim.*

*The light grows dim as we go in  
La bimba la bamba la bim.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

We look forward to seeing you at the Lantern Walk!

