November 5, 2026

Dear Mountain Song Community,

Celebrating the **Day of the Ancestors** has been an experience beyond words for me as a teacher, and a meaningful journey for our students as well.

The preparation for this festival unfolded over the course of a month, a time in which heart, mind, and hands came together in a beautiful rhythm of creativity, learning, and collaboration.

One of the most beautiful things I witnessed across all the classes was the children's capacity for team-work. Alongside our paraprofessionals, each child found their own rhythm, contributing step by step to the creation of their assigned decorations. Every flower, butterfly, papel picado, and artistic detail became part of something greater than the individual work: a shared offering created by many hands.

During our gathering around the altar, the children had the opportunity to behold their creations with reverence and pride. They could see how their individual contributions had come together to form a communal work of art, while also appreciating the beautiful work of the other classes. It was a moment to experience what it means to create something together and to be part of a larger community.

I hold deep admiration for our 7th and 8th grade students. The magic and joy of the assembly were the result of many weeks of dedication, responsibility, and shared effort. Each student embraced a leadership role and carried their part of the celebration with confidence, care, and enthusiasm. Watching them bring everything together was the greatest gift a teacher could receive.

The celebration for each class was a feast for the senses and the spirit. We sang, danced, listened to stories, and explored the cultural significance of corn, the sacred grain at the heart of many Indigenous traditions , my family and the main ingredient in both dishes shared with the children around the altar.

Every class carries its own unique personality and essence, much like a family. Some find their expression through movement and dance, while others shine through storytelling. It was a joy to witness each group's individual spirit come alive throughout the celebration, bringing moments of laughter, connection, and wonder while holding a deep sense of reverence for the ancestors and their own families.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who offered their time and helping hands, to Miss Lang and Mr. Brian for their support in bringing this celebration to life, and to the Spanish teachers who came before me for keeping this beautiful tradition alive at Mountain Song.

May the seeds of remembrance, gratitude, creativity, and community that we planted together continue to grow in the hearts of our children.

Con Cariño y amor,
Maestra Stefanny
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