



Día de los Muertos

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a Latin American tradition celebrated on November 1st and 2nd to honor ancestors and loved ones who have passed away. Families celebrate by creating an ofrenda (offering) on an altar decorated with bright yellow and orange marigold flowers, photographs of the departed, and their favorite foods and drinks.

“Waldorf schools celebrate Día de los Muertos to honor the rhythmic passage of the seasons, foster deep reverence for life and ancestry, and teach cultural tolerance.”





In Spanish class, Día de los Muertos is a celebration that we gradually introduce across all grade levels as we prepare for this special time of year. From 1st through 8th grade, students discover new aspects of the tradition, exploring its symbols, stories, and cultural meaning through age-appropriate activities, crafts, food and songs.

- Grades 1–2: Students learn about the elements of the altar and the origins of alebrijes, the colorful fantastical creatures of Mexican folk art.
- Grade 3: Students learn the art of papel picado, creating colorful paper decorations traditionally used during celebrations.
- Grade 4: Students make sugar skulls and learn about the monarch butterflies and their connection to this time of year.
- Grades 5–6: Students explore the history and cultural significance of the cempasúchil (marigold), and tantawawa bread (from Bolivia - Perú) .
- Grade 7: Students learn about La Catrina and begin preparing their first play for Día de los Muertos.
- Grades 7–8: Students collaborate to prepare the school assembly, helping bring the celebration to life through a play, traditional songs, Dance and the creation of the altar for the School.

October 29th – November 4th: Each class will celebrate Día de los Muertos at the school altar during Spanish class, sharing traditional songs, stories, and food.

