



October 26, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In Spanish class next week your child will be studying a Mexican holiday called *El Día de los Muertos* (the Day of the Dead). This is a holiday that honors and remembers loved ones who have passed away. The celebration is extremely important in Mexico and in Mexican-American communities throughout the US and Canada. Studying it will give students an opportunity to learn in depth about the culture and traditions of our neighbors.

Our study of the holiday will culminate with the creation of a traditional *ofrenda* in the hallway of each floor of the school building. Each grade will have the opportunity to contribute to its construction and decoration as follows:

- Kindergarten-- "*pan de muerto*" made out of clay
- 1st Grade— Decorative mobiles
- 2nd Grade— Puppets
- 3rd Grade— *Margaritas* (marigolds) made of tissue paper and pipe cleaners
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th Grade-- *Papel Picado* (traditional paper banners)
- 6th, 7th, and 8th - *Papel Picado*, *Calaveras*, and *Margaritas* (marigolds)

Please note that students will not be celebrating the holiday but studying it. If you are uncomfortable with any of the activities that we are planning, please let us know and we will have your child do an alternative activity. You can reach us via email or phone at the addresses and numbers listed below our names.

Many thanks,

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