

Días de los Muertos



Dearest Parents,

The Day of the Dead is celebrated in many Latin American countries, and is one of Mexico's most important "fiestas". It is not morbid, grotesque or scary and it is not like Halloween. These celebrations honor the lives of loved ones who have passed - a festive celebration, and some of its components date back to the Aztec and Mayan cultures.

In many households people set up a lavishly decorated table (altar) with photos and mementos of the deceased loved ones, as well as flowers, incense and candles (oftendas) at this time of year. Here at SBS we too are celebrating these days!

All 4th - 8th students are to bring in to class a "memory" box, which later will be placed on our community altar in the Multi-purpose room. At the end of the season, items are traditionally removed from the box, as each year we create a new one. Creating a memory box each year as a family is an especially wonderful experience.

How to make a memory box:

- 1) 1 shoe box (without the top), placed sideways, so it looks like a little stage.
- 2) Photos (or copies of photos) of dear ones who have passed away. If you don't have a photo, your child could draw a picture of what they think they looked like.
- 3) A remembrance, something personal to place in the box, for example:
 - a) If grandpa loved car racing you would add a toy racecar.
 - b) If grandma liked to knit you would bring in a tiny ball of yarn.
 - c) If auntie loved chocolate you would bring a little chocolate.
 - d) If uncle loved the zoo your child could draw a picture of a zoo or make one out of beeswax, etc.
- 4) A little candle or votive (battery OK) or beeswax model of one.
- 5) Beautiful things to decorate the box as you wish such as fresh or paper flowers, shells, pebbles, glitter, etc. You could glue on many items.

Make it as creative and elaborate as you would like.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me:

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Saludos,
Señora Long



