

Annual Festivals, Celebrations and Special Events

Waldorf education works closely with the natural rhythms of the day, the week, the season and the year. One way these rhythms are followed is through the celebration of festivals. Living closely with the steady, repeating cycle of the year gives children strength, confidence and a foundation on which to stand. Festival celebrations help create our relationship to time, nature, and community. They can help us relate to the earth, to a higher reality, and to other human beings.

For the safety of the children and school property, parent supervision is required at all times during after-school and weekend events. Check the Midweek Messenger and school calendar for dates, times and more details.

Rose Ceremony (September)

During the first week of school, seniors welcome each first grader with a rose. This is an all-school assembly celebration.

Michaelmas (September)

Michaelmas comes just past the fall equinox and is an in-school celebration. The children learn the story of the unconquered hero, St. Michael, who vanquishes the Dragon. This annual festival symbolizes our search for inner courage to overcome the growing darkness of the coming winter.

Dia de Muertos (November)

Students may bring photos for the traditional altar to honor loved ones who have died. Grades 1-12 celebrate this Mexican tradition by singing songs and eating pan (bread).

Lantern Walks (November)

Rosebud Garden, Kindergarten and First Grade walk their own lantern walk while sharing lantern songs. Often, this tradition is coupled with a pot luck gathering.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day (November)

This is a special day for grandparents and special friends to visit KWS, attend a special assembly and visit classrooms.

Advent Spiral Gardens (December)

In a darkened room, first and second grade students walk the spiral path of evergreen branches to light their candle with the candle in the center of the garden. They each, one at a time, place their light somewhere along their way out of the path... "bringing light from the Center to the World," this winter ceremony happens on the first Sunday of Advent.

Advent Assemblies (December)

Each Monday morning in December, the entire school gathers together to sing and hear an Advent story told by a senior.

St. Nicholas Day (December)

On December 6, St. Nicholas and Rupert surprise grades 1-4 with a treat and a personal message for each student.

KWS Craft Show (December)

Eagerly anticipated by the KWS community and the greater community, this annual juried craft show raises money for the J. Terry Neville Scholarship Fund (emergency scholarship fund for current families experiencing a financial crisis) and features handmade crafts by juried craftspeople, a tea room with student musical performances, children's activities, and homemade meals each day. Friday night is for adults only, and Saturday is family friendly.

Santa Lucia Day (December)

This day is about giving to others- Santa Lucia and the Second Grade visit all the other classes, bringing songs and baked treats.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January)

KWS celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with an all-school assembly in the morning and speakers and diversity-focused workshops for grades 8-12 in the afternoon.

Bantam Basketball Tournament (January)

Bantam Boys' and Girls' teams from East Coast Waldorf schools travel to Green Meadow Waldorf School in Spring Valley, NY for two days of exciting tournament games.

Varsity Basketball Tournament (February)

Varsity Boys' and Girls' teams from several Waldorf schools travel to KWS for two days of exciting tournament games.

KWS Spring Benefit (April)

This is our largest fundraising event of the year where over 200 parents, alumni, and friends of the school together raise money for our Annual Fund and Scholarship support. The Annual Fund provides a range of educational programs and services that would otherwise remain beyond our reach.

May Faire (May)

This festival honors the turning of the seasons from darkness to light. A Saturday celebration full of fun and family activities, this day includes dance and song around the May Pole, boat races, crafts and food.



Greek Pentathlon (May)

Students in the fifth grade from five regional Waldorf schools join our fifth graders here at KWS to compete in the Greek Olympics.

Field Day (May)

Grades 3-12 are divided into two teams (Blue and White) and compete in athletic contests, including a final Grand Relay. Spectators are welcome.

Graduation Rose Ceremony (June)

The first graders present each graduating senior with a rose and good wishes for the future. This all-school assembly is celebrated on the last day of school.

Curriculum Assemblies (throughout the year)

In addition to the festivals and events above, curriculum assemblies are held throughout the school year in the High School Gym. All are welcome to come and see our classrooms' work and performances. Festive dress is required for students. Check the Midweek Messenger and school calendar for dates and times.