

Neighborhood Charter School
688 Grant Street

Atlanta Ga

Special Events, September:

Hispanic Heritage Month

In September, Latin American countries celebrate their independence from Spanish rule. Students learn and celebrate the independence of several countries.

October:

Dia de los Muertos

El Dia de los Muertos or Day of the dead ,November 2, is one of the most important traditions in Mexico. The people of early Mexican civilizations believed that the souls of their loved ones return each year to celebrate with them. Dia de los Muertos is not a sad day but a beautiful celebration. The Mexican people honor their dead by making an altar at home. They bring pictures of the loved ones, special foods and flowers, and they decorate the altar with candles, sugar skulls, candies, and cakes. They also bring special foods and flowers to the cemetery where their loved ones are buried and they celebrate and pray in their memory.

Students make arts and crafts such as sugar skulls and masks.

Students write about a person or a pet who they would like to honor. They listen to and question the native speakers who visit the school. Students develop an awareness, understanding and respect for other cultures and traditions.

December:

Las Posadas

Christmas is a very important holiday in Mexico. Several days before Navidad, Mexican people begin a special pilgrimage called Las Posadas, in

memory of Joseph and Mary, who could not find a room at the inn. Families and neighbors call at each other's houses and ask for posada, or lodging. Finally they are invited into one of the houses, and given hot chocolate with cinnamon, among many other delicious treats. Children enjoy the pinata and the celebration, typical music, songs and arts and crafts. During this time of year we will read Latin American folk tales such as "The Legend of The Poinsettia," and "Pedro's Christmas Flower."

Los Tres Reyes Magos

This holiday is a Spanish tradition and it is celebrated on January 6. The holiday commemorates the night when Three Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem and presented the baby Jesus with gifts. Students learn about this special tradition in Spain.

May:

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Cinco de Mayo is a holiday celebrated by Mexicans and Mexican Americans on May 5. It commemorates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Students will celebrate this Mexican tradition with performances, music, and dances. They will be exposed to typical foods to celebrate the holiday and they will have an opportunity to participate in arts and crafts such as Ojo de Dios, Molas, Pinatas, flowers, papel picado, sombreros, and ponchos.

The Restaurant Project

Students will create a restaurant with a menu, food, and prices. They will learn restaurant vocabulary, discuss eating customs and etiquette, and they will have an opportunity to role play a real restaurant situation.