

October 12, 2018.

***“The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living.”***

***Marcus Tullius Cicero***

**Buen Dia familia de Plato! / Good day Plato family!**

It's that time of the year again, and our students are very excited about remembering the traditions of the Hispanic culture regarding “The day of the Dead”.

We started our class by talking about the extremely popular holiday called **Dia de los Muertos**, and it takes place in Mexico and some countries in South America, from October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Dia de los Muertos** is commonly misunderstood as a variation of Halloween, but it is in fact a total different celebration. For Hispanic families, it is time to get together and remember and honor their loved ones who have died. For Mexicans and



South Americans, death is celebrated as a natural and normal part of life. It is believed that on this days, the spirits of those who have died return to visit their family and friends whom are still alive. Families prepare their arrival by decorating their tombs with beautiful marigold flowers, and by setting up **altares**/ altars. In them they bring food, flowers, candles, candy, bread of the dead, beverages, sugar skulls and sugar skeletons and decorate it with **papel picado**/perforated paper. On top of the altar they set up the picture of the loved one who they want to honor.

In our class, we talked about the differences between **Dia de los Muertos** and Halloween, after watching a short video. It helped them see that

even if the two holidays have a few common things, they are still very different because of their meanings. Make sure to ask your child about these differences. I'm leaving the links for the videos we watched in class, so you can understand a little bit more about this important holiday.

<https://youtu.be/rdLL45ljkEY> Documentary

<https://youtu.be/24CWzxofIno> Dia de los muertos

<https://youtu.be/jCQnUuq-TEE> Dia de los muertos cortometraje

Each class watched a different video, in them we explained the meaning of each detail from the video. Ask your child about the meaning of the food, the candles, the objects, flowers and the other parts of the altar.

Many students understand more about this day after watching the Disney movie "Coco", and I personally invite you to watch it, it is a very good movie. Many of the students asked if we could watch it in class, but we just don't have the time. Take advantage and watch it at home with them if you haven't already.

We are also very excited to prepare our altar for the contest at the Des Plaines History Museum, stay connected for more details.

Have a great week! Hasta Luego.





**Soraya Castro**

