

Michaelmas/Festival of Courage

Michaelmas/Festival of Courage, the first festival of the school year, is an ancient and traditional celebration of harvest time wherein the Archangel Michael overthrows the dragon. The mythology of this battle portrays the inner soul-struggle of mankind brought forth and made visible through drama and the imagination. The highest, noblest, most courageous, and divine within the human being battles the animalistic, brutal, self-centered dragon forces in one's own nature. Michael stands before us as an inspirational representative of the courage, strength, and love that are necessary in the contemporary world.

On **Wednesday, September 29th, at 8:45 a.m.**, the Elementary stu-

dents will present the Michaelmas Pageant, which engages each grade, 2-8, in a way that reflects the developmental and curricular themes of the year. The First Grade will be involved as awe-inspired spectators. The Upper School students play a role as guides and helpers.

At the beginning of the pageant, the classes will make a great circle to present the pageant in the round. Parents and friends are heartily welcomed to join us in the field, outside the Yellowwood Building. After the pageant, the students will go back into school and continue their day.

At 1:50 p.m. the students return outside to partake in the Tugs of War. Parents are welcome to watch and cheer from the sides of the field. It is a lively and exciting event for all.

Parents, please remind your children to wear dragon-conquering red and to bring garden or work gloves (for the tugs of war, if desired) to school on Wednesday, September 29th. Please, no cleats for this activity.

**ENJOY A HAPPY
MICHAELMAS!**

The Festivals Group

Children's Garden Autumn Garden Festival

Our Autumn Garden Festival is celebrated every year at the end of September or the beginning of October. This year's festival will be on Wednesday, October 6.

There are many festivals to mark the seasonal turning points (solstices and equinoxes). These festivals bring images that are part of the universal human experience, such as harvest festivals in the autumn. Our Autumn Garden Festival marks the end of the growing season and the celebration of the bounty of the harvest. This is the time of year when human beings must find strength and courage to enter the months of cold and darkness, bearing within themselves the light and warmth that were in the outer world of nature in summertime. The Archangel Michael, who defended the good, is a picture of

this strength and courage for the children. When the children enter the Autumn Garden, they experience the beauty and wonder of nature that is displayed throughout with flowers, cornstalks, gourds, pumpkins, tree branches, etc. The children are escorted by the Autumn Fairy through the Garden, where they meet Michael and Mother Earth. Each child receives a cape, a crown, an apple, and a bulb to plant.

In the Waldorf nursery and kindergarten, the seasonal festivals form the framework of the curriculum. The children are nourished by the images and mood of the festival activities, and by the earnestness with which the adults work to find expression for the relationship between the human being and the changing forces of nature.

For the Autumn Garden Festival, parents are needed to take on the roles of Michael and Mother Earth. Let your teacher know if you would like to help in this way. There will be a sign-up sheet outside the Willow and Butterfly classrooms for these roles. If any parents have flowers, potted plants, pumpkins and gourds, etc. to share for the Festival display, please bring them in the day before the Festival, on Tuesday, October 5. Label items you want returned. The teachers will send home details as the date approaches.

Rooms and Times

Butterfly Nursery and Parent/Child: meet in Butterfly Nursery at 8:30 a.m.

Willow Kindergarten: meet in Willow Kindergarten at 9:30 a.m.