

Michaelmas will be here before we know it, as we become preoccupied with the start of school—teachers, students, and parents alike. Celebrating Michaelmas is like the wind at your back pushing you forward toward your goals and inspirations of the year. Saint Michael is the archangel who engages with the earth, especially at this time of year and this era in human history. Through his deeds the bad is not eradicated, but rather transformed into what is good. Saint Michael is our example of creativity, perseverance and courage.

Michaelmas is explained through the story of Sir George and the Dragon, a legend depicting the bravery of Sir George, who battles the dragon to save the young princess and is elevated to Saint George. Our day at the grade school involves cooperative work and athletic challenges, and culminates on the lower field. There we watch the upper grades students in archery and the javelin throw. There is also a theatrical enactment of Saint George and the Dragon.

This year we are joining in on a special global event with Waldorf schools around the world. It is called WOW Day 2012 (Waldorf One World), which is being promoted by the larger organization Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). The goal is for schools around the world to join and form relationships. Through the project, stronger Waldorf schools support other Waldorf schools in need around the world.

Through our new first grade teacher, Maria Cardenas, we are forging a relationship with a small school in Colombia, Jardin de Infantes Waldorf El Nido, which is a small kindergarten now for the children of farmers and laborers. The school is a service to these children of little means, as they are not able to pay. The teachers work for a very small pay and there are few supplies or amenities.

We here in Princeton will learn about the culture of Colombia this fall through dances, stories and songs. The school will work and harvest in our garden as well as at Mrs. Phinney's farm next door. With our harvest we will make Colombian soups which will be for sale as a fund-raiser on Michaelmas. There are many ways you can help besides purchasing soup.

We will also be collecting materials for school, toys and beautiful objects to send to Colombia. Please look through your homes and see if there are items you don't need anymore that a kindergarten could use. This includes school supplies like paper and crayons. It would be most appreciated if you have handmade items that you can offer or if you would like to create a special gift. Look for small workshops this fall centered on making items that could be sold or donated.

On Michaelmas, Friday, September 28, no special accommodations are made for grade school parents, but you are welcome to come down to the lower field about noon and watch the culminating events of the day. The early childhood classes have their own celebration appropriate for the younger children. More details will follow via e-mail.