



# ¡Russell Habla Español!

Spanish Newsletter for October 16 - November 15, 2008

[http://www.am.dodea.edu/ny\\_va/quantico/russell/clsrms/files/index.htm](http://www.am.dodea.edu/ny_va/quantico/russell/clsrms/files/index.htm)

## El Día de los Muertos

**El Día de los Muertos** (the Day of the Dead), is a holiday (or festival) which is celebrated in Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala, and other areas in Central and South America populated with the Latino ethnic background. **El Día de los Muertos** is also celebrated in areas of the United States, such as California, Texas, and many others, in which the Mexican/American heritage exists. This is a time to celebrate, remember and prepare special foods in honor of those who have departed.

It is believed that the spirit of the dead visits their families on October 31 and leave on November 2

On this day in Mexico, the streets near the cemeteries are filled with decorations of **papel picado** (decorative paper cut-outs), flowers, candy **calaveras** (skulls), toy **calacas** (skeletons) and parades. In order to celebrate, the families make altars and place **ofrendas** (offerings) of food such as **pan de muertos** baked in shapes of skulls and figures, candles, incense, yellow marigolds known as **compazuchitl**, and most importantly a photo of the departed soul is placed on the altar.

For more Information, please visit the following websites:

- <http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/>
- [http://www.mexconnect.com/mex\\_/feature/daydeadindex.html](http://www.mexconnect.com/mex_/feature/daydeadindex.html)
- <http://www.dayofthedead.com/>

## ¿QUÉ APRENDEN LOS NIÑOS?

**\*\*Please visit the FLES-Spanish website for presentations and websites to practice *español* at home!\*\***

**Kindergarten** - The week of Oct. 13 we began the unit *Contamos y Coloreamos* (We Count and Color). The students will learn the numbers 1-5 and colors in Spanish.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades** - Both grades successfully completed the unit *Buenos Días* (Good Morning). We will begin the Unit *La Tierra* (The Earth) the week of Oct. 13. Students will learn to distinguish the flags of the following countries: Mexico, Puerto Rico, United States, and Spain. They will learn to appropriately ask/respond to *¿De dónde eres?* (Where are you from?) We will compare and contrast Mexican and Puerto Rican cultures.

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade** - Third grade completed the *Día del Loro* (Parrot's Day) Unit test of Friday, Oct. 10. We will discuss *El Día de la Raza* (Columbus Day) and learn about *El Día de los Muertos*. Finally, we will learn about the Puerto Rican culture.