



## Epiphany Bonfire

2025: Monday, January 6

Held as close as possible to January 5th or 6th, weather and burn-approval permitting, this is a wonderful welcome-back tradition from Winter Break. Open to SWSF families only (not open to the public), our community brings their (undecorated + un-flocked) trees, swags, wreaths to campus to burn in a cheery bonfire and sing songs of Epiphany, enjoy Hot Cider, King's Cake, baked potatoes with fixings, and celebrate Light during Winter's most darkest time.

### **The Tradition of Epiphany:**

Known as Three Kings Day or Twelfth Night, we celebrate this tradition on/near January 6 to symbolize the manifestation of divine light and universal wisdom to humanity. It is an ancient celebration where the Three Wise Men, led by the brightest of stars, reached Bethlehem on this day with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The coming together of the Wise Men from different regions across the world—each bearing symbolic gifts—represents diversity and the unity of a shared purpose.

**Central Activities:** Songs, bonfire, storytelling of the Epiphany story, artwork depicting Magi, creating Three Wise Men costumes, etc.

### **Central Themes:**

- **Reverence and Wonder:** cultivating a sense of awe and reverence for life and the world. Provides an opportunity to experience this through storytelling, ritual, and artistic expression. The story of the Three Kings, guided by a star to visit the Christ child, embodies themes of wonder and reverence for the divine mystery.
- **Seeking Wisdom:** emphasizes developing the capacity for deep thinking, curiosity, and lifelong learning. Stories and symbols encourage children to seek truth and wisdom. The journey of the Magi (Three Wise Men) symbolizes the quest for knowledge and spiritual truth, resonating with Waldorf's emphasis on the inner journey of learning and self-discovery.
- **Inner Light:** light and awakening, encouraging students to recognize their inner potential and moral compass.
- **Reflection on the light within each person and the importance of Will (spiritual growth).**
- **Service and Gift-Giving:** values of generosity, compassion, and community. The gifts of the Magi (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) serve as a reminder of selfless giving and the recognition of others' divine nature. Storytelling and Archetypes: fostering imagination. The narrative of the Magi following the star is a rich story that can be dramatized, retold, or explored through artistic activities, helping students internalize its deeper meanings.
- **Seasonal Rhythms:** Epiphany represents a time of revelation, clarity, and connection to inner light during winter's darkness. Our students bring this ritual to life through storytelling, songs, and cultural foods, along with the many opportunities for creative expression in their artwork and festival costumes. All of which helps broaden their understanding of themes centering on light in darkness, wisdom, and hope.

- **Stories and Plays:** The story of the Three Kings is often told or performed as a play, sometimes by older students for younger children. Related stories or myths, such as those involving the guiding light or journeys of transformation, may also be shared.
- **Artistic Activities:** Creating stars, crowns, or representations of the gifts of the Magi. Drawing or painting images inspired by the Epiphany story.
- **Reflection on Light:** Candle-lighting ceremonies or moments of quiet reflection to honor the theme of light growing in the darkness.
- **Service and Generosity:** Acts of kindness, such as sharing food, making gifts for others, or participating in charitable activities.
- **Singing and Music:** Seasonal songs and hymns, including those about the Magi or the guiding star.

Song:

Star High,  
Baby Low,  
Twixt the two,  
The Wise Men Go.

Hold the baby,  
Grasp the star,  
King of all things,  
Near and far.