



Summerfield

WALDORF SCHOOL & FARM

Santa Lucia Day, December 13

Santa Lucia Day is celebrated each year on December 13, near the Winter Solstice. It is a tradition of Swedish origin that honors light during the darkest time of the year. Many Grade 2 classes in Waldorf schools celebrate Santa Lucia Day (St. Lucy's Day) and its many symbolic gestures in a way that highlights the themes of light and community. It is a beautiful moment for the child to experience the connection between nature's seasonal rhythms (darkness and light), cultural traditions, and the development of their inner life.

It also honors the importance of generosity as told by Lucia's acts of bringing food to people in need of shelter and protection. She wore a crown of candles so that she had her hands free to carry food. This day helps our children foster a sense of community and togetherness, as it is a communal event where students give of themselves, in song and sustenance, to their fellow students across the grades, embodying the meaningful story of Lucia's kindness, generosity, and service to others.

Santa Lucia Day Themes:

Celebration of Light in Darkness: Santa Lucia Day occurs during the Advent season, a time of anticipation and reflection leading up to the winter solstice. Symbolizes bringing light into the darkness, which resonates deeply during the darker days of December, especially in the Northern Hemisphere. The image of Lucia with her crown of candles represents hope, warmth, and the triumph of light over darkness.

Cultural Awareness and Connection: Waldorf education values exposing children to diverse cultural traditions. Santa Lucia Day is a cherished Scandinavian holiday, and celebrating it helps students learn about and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of different regions.

Kindness, Service, and Generosity: Santa Lucia, a Christian martyr from Sicily, is remembered for her acts of kindness and service to others. In Scandinavian tradition, she symbolizes generosity and selflessness. These themes are integrated into the celebration, inspiring students to cultivate compassion and think of ways to bring light to others in their community.

Rhythm and Tradition: Celebrating Santa Lucia Day contributes to the yearly rhythm of festivals in Waldorf schools, providing children with a sense of continuity and grounding. The ritual of observing Santa Lucia Day fosters reverence and mindfulness.

Artistic and Musical Expression: includes singing traditional Santa Lucia songs, wearing special white robes, and crafting crowns of stars or lanterns, which align with Waldorf's emphasis on integrating arts and hands-on activities into learning.

Summerfield Waldorf Activities:

According to Swedish tradition, the oldest daughter in a family wears a crown with four candles as the children bring saffron rolls (Lussekatte) to the parents and neighbors. Our Summerfield second grade girls take turns wearing the 'crown of light' as they walk from the Early Childhood village to High School and all lower school grades, to bring light and song, leaving a plate of star cookies to share. The boys wear star collars and star crowns, and all students proudly carried their star staff with them. In the week leading up to this day, the students will work on sanding and oiling staffs cut from wild plum and willow and crown it with a star. The Grade 2 teacher will lead their students in procession, singing the 'Sankta Lucia' song on their walk around campus.

"Santa Lucia, thy light is glowing,
through darkest winter's night, comfort bestowing
Dreams float on wings of night, come then the morning light,
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.
Through darkest winter's gloom, thy song comes winging,
to waken the earth anew, glad carols bringing.
Come thou, o queen of light, wearing the crown so bright,
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia"

The second graders alternate the beautiful Santa Lucia song with a whimsical Tomten song. After they return to their classroom and change out of their costumes, they enjoy saffron rolls and star cookies. Our children glow with the knowledge they have truly brought a gift of light, warmth and song to the school on this special day.