

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **McAuley AP Spanish Students Celebrate Traditional Spanish Holiday**

Mother McAuley students in Señora Lesch's AP Spanish Class celebrated the Latin American holiday of Day of the Dead (El Dia de los Muertos) earlier this month. As part of the celebration, the students created a traditional altar honoring family and friends who have passed away. The altar was on display in the school chapel for members of the McAuley community.

The students chose to dedicate their altar to the children throughout the world who have died as a result of kidnapping. McAuley students and faculty were invited to contribute a name of or write a message to a child who has lost his or her life as a result of kidnapping. The purpose of the altar is to encourage visits by the souls of the children as to hear the prayers that were said for them.

A traditional Day of the Dead altar contains three levels. The first level honors the spirit of the dead and is decorated with religious symbols, colorful paper (papel picado), sugar skulls and candles. The second level represents life and the children's time on earth. The display included children's clothing, toys, and favorite foods, along with photographs of missing children. The third and final level is for the earth. Water, incense and marigolds are traditional items for this level of the altar.



Mother McAuley AP Spanish students celebrated the Day of the Dead by creating a traditional altar that was on display for the McAuley community. The students who worked on the project include (back row, left to right) Yuriria Chavez of West Lawn, Jessica Rubio of Oak Lawn, Anne Dailidonis of Brighton Park, and Lisa Burns of Beverly; (front row, left to right) Gabriella Hernandez of Ashburn, Jazmin Yahuaca of Ashburn, Bianca Lopez of Harvey, Sofia Ramos of Beverly, Clare Teeling of West Lawn, Carol Frigo of Oak Lawn, Jessica Gonzalez of East Side, Giselle Martinez of Blue Island, and Rebecca Sutich of West Lawn.