



Stellenbosch Waldorf School
Nurturing Conscious Individuals

UPDATE

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EASTER UPDATE 2025



Foundations of our Easter Festival from a Waldorf outlook

Easter, is a festival of renewal, transformation, and the rhythms of nature.

Across cultures and throughout history, people have marked this time of year as a sacred transition, whether in the Northern Hemisphere, where it aligns with the return of spring, or in the Southern Hemisphere, where it falls during autumn.

While in the north Easter symbolizes rebirth in the form of blooming flowers, returning warmth, and new life emerging after winter's slumber, in the south, it takes on a different but equally powerful meaning: a time of shedding, release, and preparing for deep inner reflection.

Continue reading on the next page.

EASTER FESTIVAL



The gift of an Easter egg hunt, breaking bread together and giving to others

Our whole school was treated with some beautiful musical performances, followed by an Easter egg hunt. Our primary school children prepared a delicious feast where we all broke bread together, spent a few moments chatting before heading off to our Easter Holiday. Our school also collected groceries for a charity organisation in Stellenbosch as part of the run-up to our festival. Thank you dear Parents for your contributions, Our school family ended off Term one with bright broad smiles and full bellies. We look forward to a great break. Happy holidays!



Easter story continues

In the Waldorf educational philosophy, Easter is not just about the external changing of the seasons; it is a reflection of humanity's inner journey. In the Southern Hemisphere, nature teaches us that renewal is not always about blossoming—it is also about letting go. Just as trees shed their leaves in autumn, we too are invited to release what no longer serves us, making space for quiet contemplation and transformation. Easter in autumn can be seen as a spiritual preparation for the colder, more introspective months ahead, a time to strip away what has not borne fruit and to nurture the seeds of new beginnings within.

Despite the seasonal differences, the universal essence of Easter remains the same: it is a time of transition, a reminder of life's cyclical nature, and an opportunity to reflect on our own personal and spiritual growth. Waldorf schools in both hemispheres embrace these themes through storytelling, art, music, and nature-based activities.

Whether celebrating the bursting forth of spring's energy or honoring the quiet wisdom of autumn's shedding, the festival serves as a profound symbol of transformation—guiding us toward deeper awareness, inner renewal, and the ever-present rhythm of change in our lives.

EASTER STORY

The Seed and the silent Grove

In a valley bathed in the golden hues of autumn, there stood a grove of ancient trees. For generations, the people of the valley had gathered there to celebrate the Harvest Festival. The largest and most majestic of the trees, known as the Elder Tree, stood at the heart of the grove, its branches adorned with colorful ribbons and offerings. The Elder Tree was a symbol of the abundance and joy of the festival.

But as the days grew shorter and the air turned crisp, the festival drew to a close. The vibrant colors began to fade, and a quiet stillness settled over the grove. The joyous laughter of the people was replaced by the gentle rustling of falling leaves.

Then, a great sadness fell upon the valley. The Elder Tree, which had stood strong for so many years, began to wither. Its leaves turned brown and brittle, and its once mighty branches drooped towards the earth. One evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, casting long shadows across the grove, the Elder Tree let out a mournful sigh and fell to the ground with a resounding crash.

The people of the valley were filled with grief. The Elder Tree, the heart of their celebrations, was gone. A heavy silence settled over the grove, and the valley seemed to hold its breath.

Yet, even in the midst of this sorrow, a tiny seed, which had fallen from the Elder Tree long ago, lay hidden beneath the fallen branches. It had waited patiently, nestled in the rich, dark soil, until the time was right. As the days passed, and the fallen Elder Tree began to decay, it provided nourishment to the earth.

EASTER STORY continues

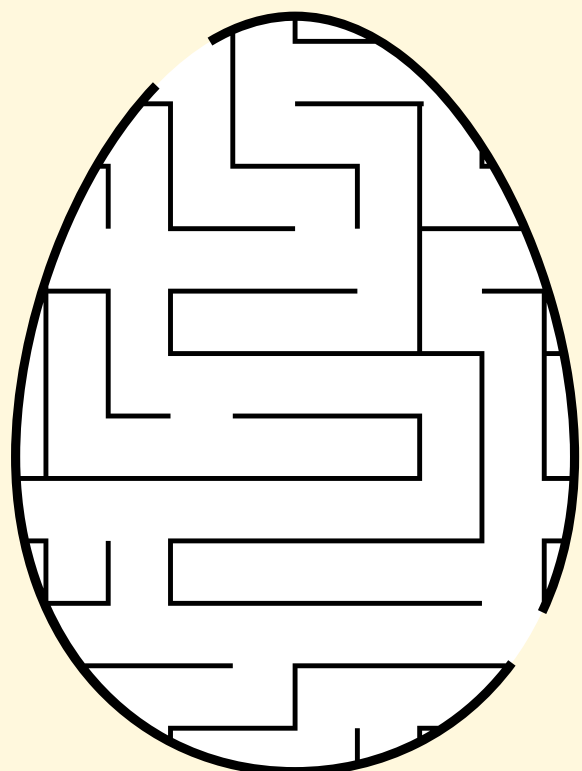
The tiny seed, warmed by the earth, and fed by the decay of the Elder tree, began to sprout. A delicate green shoot emerged from the soil, pushing its way through the fallen leaves.

Slowly, the shoot grew, reaching towards the light. Its leaves unfurled, and its stem strengthened. A new tree was born, small and fragile, but full of life and promise.

The people of the valley watched in wonder as the new tree grew. They realized that even in the midst of loss, new life could emerge. The fallen Elder Tree, in its death, had given birth to a new beginning. The grove, once silent with grief, began to fill with a quiet hope.

The new tree would not replace the Elder Tree, but it carried the memory of it within its tender growth. And as the seasons turned, the people knew that the cycle of life, death, and renewal would continue, bringing with it both sorrow and joy. The silent grove, would in time, be a place of new celebration.

Here's a labyrinth maze for you to try!



EASTER RECIPES



The whole school enjoyed a musical performance and beautiful singing by students and visitors to the school.

Easter Biscuits

200g flour

100g butter

100g sugar

Handful of currants

½ teaspoon mixed spice and cinnamon

Squeeze of lemon

Beaten egg with teaspoon of brandy

Rub together the butter and flour, and add the sugar, currants, spices and lemon. Mix in the egg and brandy and form a paste. Roll out thinly on a floured board, and cut into 10cm rounds.

Bake in oven at 200°C (gas mark 6) until crisp. Watch carefully that they don't become overcooked.

Madeira cake

225g butter

Grated rind of 1 lemon

275g castor sugar

5 eggs

350g plain flour

Pinch salt

1 tsp baking powder

1 teacup milk

Cream the butter with the grated lemon rind and add the sugar gradually. Continue beating until the mixture is light and soft. Beat in the eggs one at a time, adding a little flour each time. Then sift the remaining flour, salt and baking powder and fold into the mixture with the milk.

Put into prepared tin and bake for 180°C (gas mark 4) for 1 hour. Then reduce heat to 160°C (gas mark 3) for a further ½ hour. To test if the cake is cooked, press the top lightly with your fingertips. If the cake springs back readily, it is cooked.

AUTUMN SONG

Under the harvest moon

Autumn comes, the summer is past, Winter will come too soon;
Stars will shine clearer, skies seem nearer Under the Harvest
Moon. Stars will shine clearer, skies seem nearer Under the
Harvest Moon.

Autumn comes, so let us be glad,
Singing an autumn tune;
Hearts will be lighter, skies seem brighter,
Under the Harvest Moon.

Autumn leaves, brown, yellow and gold
Mornings a -frost with dew
Air grows colder, breezes blow bolder
Under the harvest moon.

Autumn fire, the hearth of the earth
Glowing inside a room
Dreams growing deeper, close to the sleeper
Under the harvest moon.

*A seasonal song as Summer changes to
Autumn.*



TERM PLANNER

Term Planner 2025	
Compiled: 27 March 2025: subject to updates	
TERM 1	
Tuesday, 21 Jan	Start of Term 1: PS & HS
Wed, 22 Jan	Start of Term 1: PG & KG
Friday, 11 April	End of Term 1: ALL
Sunday, 13- 16 April	National Teachers Conference
TERM 2	
Monday, 5 May	Start of Term 2: ALL
Thursday, 8 - 10 May	Parzival Camp: Cl 11
Saturday, 24 May	Harvest Market and Open House
Friday, 30 May	Bake Sale
Friday, 6 June	Whitsun Festival & Quiz evening
Monday, 16 June	Youth Day
Thursday, 26 June	St. John's Festival
Friday, 27 June	End of Term 2: ALL
TERM 3	
Tuesday, 22 July	Start of Term 3: ALL
Friday, 25 Jul	Bake Sale
Saturday, 9 Aug	National Women's Day
Friday, 29 Aug	Bake Sale
Saturday, 13 Sep	Open House/puppet show, crafts, activities
Wednesday, 24 Sep	Heritage Day
Friday, 26 Sep	Michaelmas/End of Term 2: ALL
TERM 4	
Monday, 13 Oct	Start of Term 4: ALL
Friday, 24 Oct	Bake Sale
Saturday, 29 Nov	Advent Market and Open House
Wednesday, 3 - 5 Dec	Teacher's Shepherd's Play
Sunday, 7 Dec	Advent Spiral: KG
Monday, 8 Dec	Advent Spiral: All
Wednesday, 10 Dec	Advent & End of Term 4