What ritual in your own life lives in your mind or heart with particular poignancy?

This can be a one-time experience from your past, an ongoing ritual, something wonderful, or something challenging. It does not need to be connected to school life.

Please choose something that you would be willing to share with someone at your table. We will take one minute for this reflection so try to go with the first thing that comes to mind.
Bosque School 2018 Graduation, Albuquerque
Peking University 2016 Graduation, Beijing
E-Learning Program Graduates
Murewa Day Care Ctr., Zimbabwe
Transition Rituals

- Celebration of completion; bestowal of credentials
- Home to school: “child” to “student”
- Within school day and classroom itself
Social Cohesion + Solidarity

- Ritual binds us together in consensual group (Émile Durkheim)
- Reading circle, morning meeting, pep rallies, mascot
- Maintain status quo: this is who we are, what we do
Rituals of Transformation + Possibility

- Capacity to transform (Victor Turner)
- Walking the labyrinth with women in the ABQ Metropolitan Jail
- “Contradictory moments that reinforce structure”
Candlelight Vigil, Parkland, Florida: 2/15/18
North Shore Restorative Justice Society, BC, Canada
Rituals of Initiation

▪ New colleagues: empowering them to be successful, avoid isolation

▪ New students and families: critical rituals

▪ Story + recognition
Annual Bosque School Faculty + Staff Walk to River Land Acknowledgment, Place-Based Poetry and Music
School as Ritual

- School itself as highly ritualized performance
  — Peter McLaren

- Interaction rituals greatly impact students’ lives
  — Richard Quantz
School as Ritual

▪ Caution against instruction rituals becoming sacred; “the puzzlemaster”
  — Richard Quantz

▪ Critical need for school leaders to focus on Quantz’s “non-rational” aspects of school life
“...while most teachers and administrators focus their attention on the rational aspects of action such as goals and outcomes, the real importance of education actually occurs in those nonrational areas that we rarely think about or plan. If there is a ‘new pedagogy,’ it will be in organizing and considering the non-rational aspects of schooling.”

— Rituals and Student Identity in Education: Ritual Critique for a New Pedagogy, Richard Quantz
Avoid schools as merely a ritual of self-perpetuation and the perpetuation of the status quo

— Peter McLaren

*Schooling As a Ritual Performance: Toward a Political Economy of Educational Symbols and Gestures*
Describe a ritual that is part of your education practice that works really well.

What makes it work? What does it yield?
Work out your rituals before you find them becoming an accidental part of your practice.

—Martin Robinson

*Practice Teaching, Teaching Practice: Ritual blogpost*
Grateful for your work in the world!

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