

A Word from Ms. Mall

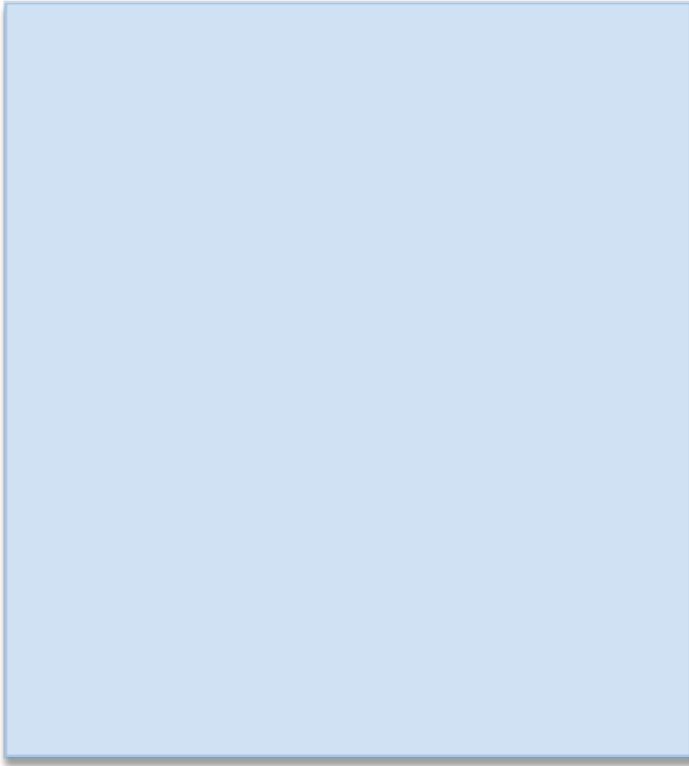
Hello Dear Families,

As many parents are aware, Waldorf methods are deeply rooted in rhythmical activities always balancing active times with focused times. An example of how this manifests itself at school can be seen in main lesson where the children begin the day with active circle times and then move into focused instruction, followed by a doing and a practice. At home, it can be seen in regular sleeping and waking times, consistent meal times, focused and free play, and other consistent routines around personal hygiene.

Like my family, many of you reading this may already feel like there is no way to accomplish all of this considering your busy lives. As in any given group, we are all at different places in the journey toward this ideal image. In our family we have committed ourselves to striving for the ideal while knowing we will have both successes and failures. We began our initial journey with bedtime several years ago. After consciously observing our children's behavior without a consistent bedtime, we concentrated our efforts on bedtime and then compared the resulting behavior. Even now we do not have 100 percent success, but we have established a rhythm that is easier to pick up again after a few busy days.

Upcoming Events

The Next Big Things:



Accessing Our New Site

As many of you already know, the new Winterberry site is accessible by trail and bus. There are trails from the Dog Park by Alaska Pacific University, East High School, and the Goose Lake parking lot. People Mover Routes 3C and 3N stop on the Northern Lights near Wesleyan. The more families who access our site via busing, walking, biking, skiing, or any other form of non-vehicular transport, the more it helps the overall community, the neighborhood, and the planet! We appreciate the efforts you make to come to and from school without a car.

For those times when we do need to drive to school, we have a traffic plan to help make drop-off and pick-up times as safe and efficient as possible. Here is a quick summary to keep in mind when driving to Winterberry.

Winterberry Traffic Flow

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A Word from Ms. Mall (continued)

Winterberry's unique curricular focus is dependent on children being awake and aware of what is being shared verbally by the teacher. Being fully rested is one way to ensure this happens. In addition to rest, elimination of TV during the week allows children's imagination to fully connect with and process the rich images being presented by the teacher. Both of these are perfect ways for you to support your child, your class teacher, and the class as a whole. For too much of the time, being a firm, kind, and consistent parent can feel like a thankless job. However, I want you to know that the faculty and staff of Winterberry do notice and are deeply grateful for your efforts. Thank you.

Blessings,

Shanna
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Making a Difference: Parent Volunteer Hours

Over the years, Winterberry has varied its request from parents for volunteer hours. Winterberry asks parents to log their volunteer hours and uses this information in reporting school activities and in grant applications. However, the most important impact of volunteer hours is the direct service our families provide to Winterberry and our students.

All forms of volunteer hours count towards the number requested by the school. Some parents take home materials, prepare them at home, and return them to the teachers in time for the class activities. Some parents chaperone field trips, assist in the classroom, contribute to work parties,

recruit other parents and community members for projects, and/or serve as classroom coordinators. Serving on the WPG and WCC are also important volunteer activities.

Fee Requests Explained

As a public charter school that is part of the Anchorage School District, there are no tuition fees at Winterberry. However, you will hear requests for fees for school supplies, class projects, musical instruments, and field trips. Each of these different fee requests will be discussed below, as well as your options if these fees are burdensome to you and your family.

Winterberry Charter School purchases many consumable supplies necessary for providing a Waldorf-inspired education. Winterberry does ask parents to contribute to the general fund the school uses to purchase these educational materials. Winterberry requests \$100 per student that the school then uses to bulk order main lesson books, watercolor supplies, handwork materials, and so on. A breakdown of the materials and costs per student is available at the front desk. Generally, the cost per student is over \$200 per year. If contributing \$100 per student would put a strain on your family's budget, please talk to Shanna Mall.

Requests for funding for class-specific materials and trips generally will come to you from the class coordinator or your child's classroom teacher. These requests vary by class and are curriculum specific. The coordinator or teacher will explain how the money is to be used. If the class funding requests create a financial hurdle, please discuss your ability to participate in the class funding with your child's teacher.

Finally, several grades use a variety of wind instruments that are available for you to purchase. If you purchase your child's flute or recorder, your child can bring it home over breaks for extra practice and enjoyment. You can contact the front office about purchasing your child's flute or recorder.

At the beginning of the year, there are a number of requests for money parents receive. Winterberry Charter School does need the support of parents to offer a rich, well-supplied, Waldorf-inspired education to all our students. If you have any questions about any fee requests you receive, feel free to contact the source of the request, your child's teacher, or Shanna Mall. If you would like to sponsor a scholarship for any of these fees, please contact Shanna Mall or your classroom teacher.

Winterberry in Living Color

Thank you to all of the artists and volunteers who have brightened our classrooms with care and color this August. Lazuring is a specific art form and requires skill and practice. To that end, we hired a team of very talented Lazure artists to offer a workshop in the technique and then to help us and guide us in painting the school.

Lazure painting uses glazes, "transparent radiant color," rather than opaque paints. These glazes are layered on the walls, over a white base, allowing the light to pass through the colors and be reflected back. Waldorf schools traditionally use this painting method to bring beauty to the walls without making them barriers. The colors of the classrooms are also modeled after Rudolf Steiner's ideals. As the children graduate from grade to grade, they graduate through the colors as well. You may notice that the predominant color of the classroom also has color elements of the prior year (in the back of the

Classroom Coordinators

One great volunteer opportunity is being the classroom coordinator for your child's class. Although the needs of each individual teacher are different, there are some duties that all classroom coordinators perform:

1. *Creating a parent contact directory for the class:* A very important task is collecting contact information from the other parents in the class and collecting it into a document for use by the other parents. This can include emails, phone numbers, and addresses that families are willing to share with each other. This provides a great resource for parents and students for coordinating play dates and other after school activities.
2. *Maintaining a class email list:* Although some teachers prefer to send class emails themselves, sometimes it is helpful to have the classroom coordinator send out group emails to the class.
3. *Finding volunteers for specific projects:* Usually, finding volunteers for field trips and other class needs is not a problem. Sometimes, though, a field trip comes up at short notice or no one volunteered for a needed task. The

Visit us on-

To adequately prepare the minds and bodies of our children for success and comfort each day, we ask that families create healthy and well-balanced lunches to be eaten at school.

Our hope is that the foods provided to students throughout

Winterberry Dress Request

Winterberry Charter Council

