

A Word from Ms. Mell

Dear Winterberry Families,

As we begin our final semester of the 2013 school year, I would like to take this time to address the issues of: guest teachers (substitutes) at Winterberry, student-to-student communication, and school safety.

Each day our fabulous teachers come to school prepared to meet our children with rich images and an abundance of energy. They are professionals called to serve children and families each and every day. Occasionally, however, these impressive individuals become ill or need to be absent to attend training. During these times we strive to connect with guest teachers who understand our program and can offer gentle service and shepherd our children during the absence of a class or specialty teacher.

These guests teachers have been fully screened by the Anchorage School District and have at minimum a four-year college degree. Many of our guest teachers hold teacher certifications as well (holding a teacher certification is now a requirement for any substitute joining the ASD). It has been our fortune at Winterberry to be able to have guest teachers who are also parents of Winterberry students allowing for the individual to have even deeper knowledge of our program.

Our guest teachers, like our classroom and specialty teachers, hold the safety and security of our students as their highest priority. In order to achieve an environment that is

safe and secure the guest teacher may ask students to move through the day in a slightly different way. Our classroom teachers, specialty teachers, and staff have shared with the students that we expect each of them to follow the direction of their guest teachers and to treat them with respect at all times. Please reiterate this to your children. It is understandable that our children can at times feel frustrated or confused when they have changes in their day, however

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Winter Fun Edition

Upcoming Events

February 2013

- 5th Outdoor Site Committee, 3:45pm
- 7th WPG Meeting, 6pm
- 9th Winter Faire 11am-4pm
- 12-13th WCC Elections
Mark your calendars for a five-day weekend!
- 14-15th NO SCHOOL
- 15th "More than Survival: The Waldorf Way to a Thriving Adolescence" 7-8:30pm
- 16th Workshop on Waldorf High School Curriculum, 9am-12:30pm
- 18th Presidents Day: -NO SCHOOL
- 21st WCC Mtg. 6pm
- 27th Grade 5 Parent Night, 6pm

March 2013

- 2nd Community Potluck 6-7:30pm
- 3rd Community Workshop 9am-2:30pm
- 4th In Service: NO SCHOOL
- 5-7th Parent-Teacher Conferences:
12:30 early release
- 7th WPG Mtg., 6 pm
- 8th All-School Ski/Skate Day
- 9-17th Spring Break
- 19th Search for the Self: Adolescent Talk with Principal Shanna Mall 6:30-8:30pm
- 21st WCC Mtg., 6 pm

Awakening the innate potential in every child

Visit us online at: www.winterberrycharterschool.com

Winterberry Charter Council Meeting Reports

December Meeting

The WCC met December 12th in the 6th grade classroom. Present were Mary Meade, Shanna Mall, Haras Cullers, Alicia Besh, Meg Eggleston, Erin Fleischer, Melissa Janigo, Meggan Judge, Tara Smith, Bob Steinmann, and Kyle Vander-Schrier.

We heard reports on the new ASD electronic lottery and the new ASD organization. We postponed discussion of the 8th grade trip policies pending the completion of faculty discussion and drafting. We discussed the upcoming WCC elections. We reported on our individual and subcommittee board goals on parent education, teacher training, ASD organization, and intra-body communication. We will give updates on our progress at all future WCC meetings this year.

January Meeting

The WCC met January 17th in the 6th grade classroom. Present were Haras Cullers, Alicia Besh, Erin Fleischer, Melissa Janigo, Tara Smith, Bob Steinmann, and Kyle Vander-Schrier, Della Swartz.

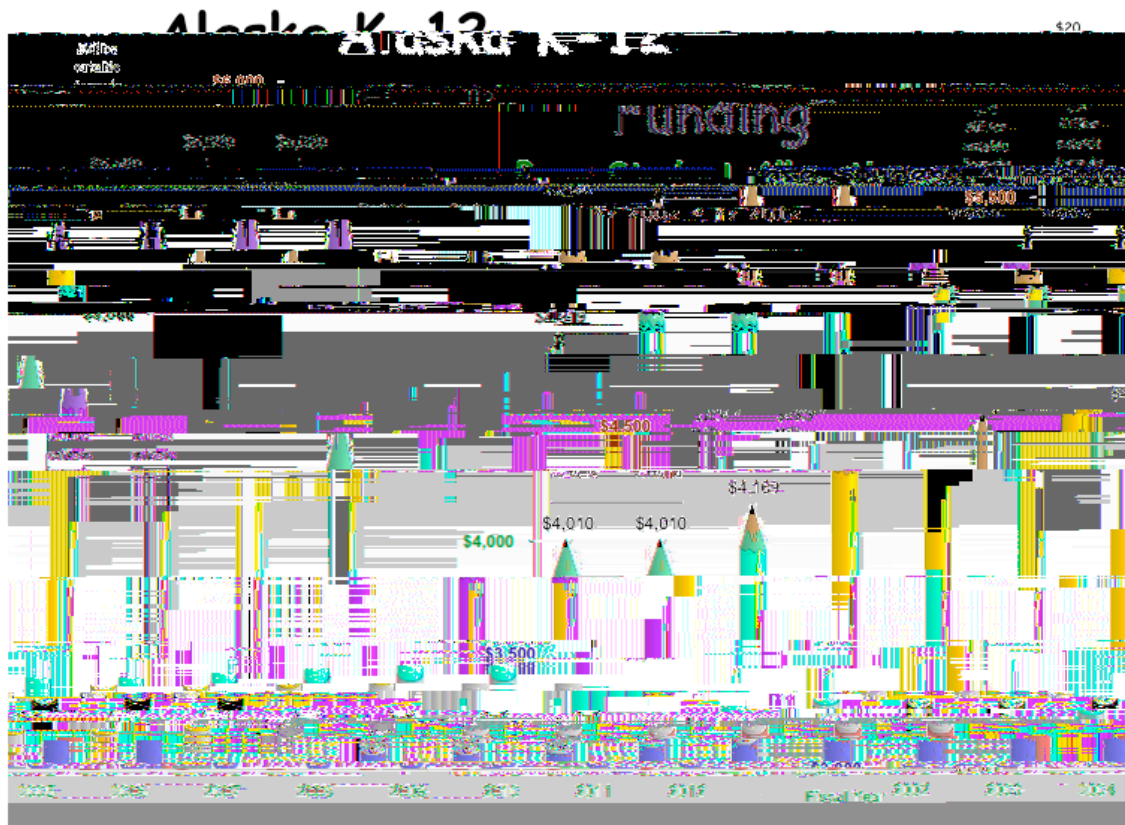
We reported on our individual and subcommittee board goals on parent education, teacher training, ASD organization, and intra-body communication. We discussed the upcoming community event with our school mentors (see the notice in this issue!). We postponed discussion of the 8th grade trip policies pending the completion of faculty discussion and drafting. We discussed the upcoming WCC elections, which will be held February 12 & 13 at the front desk. Our next meeting is on February 21st. Please note that this is our Annual Meeting when all newly elected WCC members' terms begin, and please join us if you can!

Winterberry Charter Council Elections: February 12th and 13th

Voting will be open to all parents and faculty of Winterberry Charter School for members of the Winterberry Charter Council. Please ask for a ballot at the front desk on either day to vote for your WCC members. Six of the eleven seats on the WCC are up for election, 2 are faculty seats and 4 are parent seats. In the past, the WCC has made decisions on school location, grievance policies, curriculum changes, school calendars, and early release Thursdays. If these are issues that interest you, consider talking to the candidates and please do vote on February 12th or 13th! If you have any questions or would like to run for a seat, please contact Meg Eggleston (eggleston_margaret@asdk12.org) or Erin Fleischer (erinf@me.com).

Outdoor Site Committee

We will be meeting after school Tuesday February 5 at 3:45 in the lobby. There will be updates on the outbuildings, schoolyard habitat and other projects for this summer. Your input and participation is very welcome! Let's plan our gardens, trees, water courses and hobbit holes!
Contact - Donna Mears mears@alaska.net 632-6382



This number is then multiplied by a variety of factors. These are canonized in several statutes, which I won't bore you with, but the principle is:

Alaska Statutes 14.03.260. Funding for charter school.

(a) A local school board shall provide an approved charter school with an annual program budget. The budget shall be not less than the amount generated by the students enrolled in the charter school less administrative costs retained by the local school district, determined by applying the indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Education and Early Development. The "amount generated by students enrolled in the charter school" is to be determined in the same manner as it would be for a student enrolled in another public school in that school district.

The simplest factor is the district size factor, which for us is 1.0. This factor adjusts for districts in the state where costs are higher, like the Aleutians Region at 1.736. Other urban districts like Mat-Su and Fairbanks are similar to us at 1.01 and 1.04 respectively. (See Alaska Statutes 14.17.460.)

The school size factor is where it gets a bit complicated. The school size factor essentially adds money per student for smaller schools because the overhead is usually higher due to economies of scale. It does this by adjusting the actual number of students to a number called the ADM, or Average Daily Membership. (See Alaska Statutes 14.17.450.)

For Winterberry the relevant factors are:

If our number of students during the October count is between 150 and 250, the school size factor is $218.1 + 1.08 \times (\text{number of students} - 150)$

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Traffic at Winterberry

The flow of traffic at Winterberry is the result of thoughtful, intentional decisions made during the planning process for the use of our current site. When we began discussions about the design of our school, we considered the possibility of having enough parking spaces to accommodate all of our families.

Unfortunately, we discovered that clearing out this many spaces would mean we would use at least half of the lot area for parking. It was a difficult decision, but, in the end, we decided that having adequate play space for our children was a more important priority than having more parking spaces. In fact, our parent survey from three (?) years ago rated having a large, flat play area as one of the school's highest needs, even when we had no parking spaces for parents!

Since August, this has worked well for us. All recess and outdoor movement classes have ample, usable outdoor space for appropriate activities, and most of the school day, we have more than enough parking for everyone. It is only at pick up, drop off, and during special events that our traffic flow becomes a slower process. It is at these times that we need to exercise the utmost patience and care as drivers that we can.

Our community traffic patterns have been assessed by both the city and the school district regarding our pick up procedures and both entities were very impressed with the manner in which we work together to efficiently and safely move students from school to home. The only caveats were that many of us still drive too fast in the cul-de-sac and at the beginning of the drive of our school and that many of us fail to stop at the stop sign when leaving the school drive. Focusing our attention on driving carefully through our school



Moving Traditions Committee

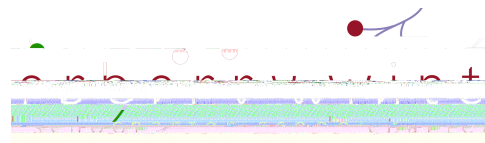
Vision:

To hold the heart of Winterberry through the transitional first year in our new home

Charge:

Ensuring that all the intangible components of the community, who we are and who we aspire to become, are transferred to our new location; Realizing the

Winterberry nurtures and promotes the development of healthy, responsible and creative human beings. Our aim is to provide a holistic learning environment and demonstrate that all children are natural and inspired learners who can achieve. Inspired by Waldorf educational methods, our integrated curriculum seeks to provide each student with meaningful, hands-on, developmentally appropriate experiences that inspire learning and personal growth.



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