



FIDDLEHEADS NURSERY

Little brown bulbs went to sleep in the ground
In their little brown nighties they made not a sound
Old winter he roared and he raged overhead
Bit the little brown bulbs did not stir in their beds
Springtime came tiptoeing over the lea
Fingers to lips as quiet as can be
The little brown bulbs they lifted their head
Threw off their nighties
And jumped out of bed
Happy Spring!!



PUSSYWILLOW KINDERGARTEN

As I write, the earth is considering its next giant in-breath. Soon, sharp winter thoughts will be drawn in and rest and out will expire a spring of flowers, sun and abundant growth. In a way, we say the earth sleeps in summer and is most awake in winter. And, perhaps, we are, as well.

If we were to say that we are tired of winter, we might also be saying that we are tired of thinking and trying to figure life out! We might be saying that winter requires so much wakefulness that we've become brittle as a layer of ice on old snow. The Chinese break the year into more seasons than we western folk. This, they call early spring. A transitional time when spirits might be a little low. Viruses like this season. (In our house, we eat a lot of ginger-y soups to keep us warm and healthy in the damp air. Look for one of our favorite recipes below.)

In the Pussywillow kindergarten, the children are breathing deeply, as well. Free-play, inside and out, is boisterous! Yet, when the children arrive each day, a little sleepy and with shiny eyes, I see the seasonal fatigue, the yearning to let go a bit, living in them. I've tweaked the rhythm a bit to acknowledge this. We're starting in candlelight, as we did during Advent, but with different intention. I've been giving foot rubs and lavender "kisses" to start the day, followed by our fairy tale of Snow White and Rose Red (gulped up by the children in absolute silence!) This seems to be helping the children settle in a bit differently.

After lunch, when I had been telling the story, instead we are having our circle time. Well-nourished by good food, happy friendship and a warm kindergarten day, we join hands and dance together! "Come, my children, dance with me! Both my hands I give to thee! One step here, one step there, 'round about as light as air!"

Spring Split Pea Soup

Ingredients:

- ½ cup chopped scallions, leeks or onions
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- A little oil
- 6 cups water
- 1 cup green split peas
- A few ginger slices, or up to several tablespoons of chopped ginger
- White miso, or whatever kind is in your fridge

I like to add a handful or two of chopped parsley at the very end and serve with chives or sprouts sprinkled on the top. Saute onions until soft. Add split peas and water, Bring to a boil, turn down and simmer until split peas are almost soft, about an hour. Add vegetables, and simmer another 30 minutes. When vegetables are tender, add miso to taste (several tablespoons), then parsley, stirring until incorporated. Serve!

SUNFLOWER KINDERGARTEN

A Chubby little snowman
Had a carrot nose,
Along came a bunny
And what do you suppose.
That hungry little bunny
Looking for his lunch,
Ate the carrot nose,
With a nibble, nibble...CRUNCH!

We are so happy to welcome Alice and Maxwell to our kindergarten family, it has been a joy to have new friends join our class! We are enjoying a playful bouncy circle with with lots of friends 'lippety-opping around the classroom'. Our story has shared how Mother Earth found an animal who is 'wise, and swift and pure of heart' to be the messenger of spring, and the little golden sun that is in the center of the eggs with get at Easter, to remind us that Spring is here and winter is done.



Our Easter grass is sprouting and growing more each day to the delight of the children. We have so enjoyed our special 'Mitten' circle with Miss Rebecca each week. Our rising 1st grade friends having been enjoying 'Games' with Miss Smith and I, and they have started some fun handwork projects. The Bog walks have been glorious in the abundant sunlight, and there is so much change each week as the snow melts away and treasures buried deep are revealed. We are transitioning from our winter gear to rainsuits, rubber boots and puddle mittens. Water is the new commodity in the play-yard. Spring is here! Renewal, light & wonder!

All is well in kindergarten~
Miss Susan

GRADE I

In First grade we learn the joy of creating with our useful hands, as well as reverence for the plants and animals which provide the materials for our work. We learn new skills and practice them to the level of habit, helping to develop our "Will" in healthy ways.

Our hand working skills develop fine motor skills and the integration of body and mind, which are part of the foundation necessary for successful academic work. The majority of our music in First Grade are songs in the "mood" of the fifth. We develop our singing voices and learn to play many songs on our pentatonic flutes. The children model beeswax. They sculpture something that relates to a story. In our language blocks we sculpture letters. In our arithmetic blocks we sculpture numbers. We spend an entire year modeling animals, gnomes, people, and things from stories.

Painting is a big transition from the "Kindergarten way." We take it slowly. The painting year focuses on the qualities of the three primary colors and their combinations. We have a series of color studies and the children learn how to control the shade of the color from light to dark using delicate brush strokes. Drawing, using block and stick crayons, is part of main lesson. We work with layers, first lightly blocking out spaces with color, then adding more and more detail with each layer to find form. In this way shapes are built up from gesture and outline is avoided. Our hands serve us well.



Greetings from the 2nd grade!

We have been busy stacking numbers and learning their value and place. Along with adding and carrying, borrowing to take away, using graph paper to help multiply, and, of course, dividing up treats and treasures. Soon we will be delving into time and money.

In our Language Arts we expand our work with Animal Fables and our sentence writing and we have been taking a journey with The King of Ireland's Son. The creatures and characters he meets in this book are amazing images to hold in the class. So wonderful also, our weeks filled in with skiing, handwork, Russian, painting, Spanish, music and more!



GRADE 3/4

Two life-changing events have happened recently. The first is that Mr. Jensen now has a daughter, Malin Mae Jensen. The second is that the third and fourth graders have moved into their last block, Geography. The class is diving into the benefit, and detriment, of European exploration in Alaska

GRADE 5/6

Roma

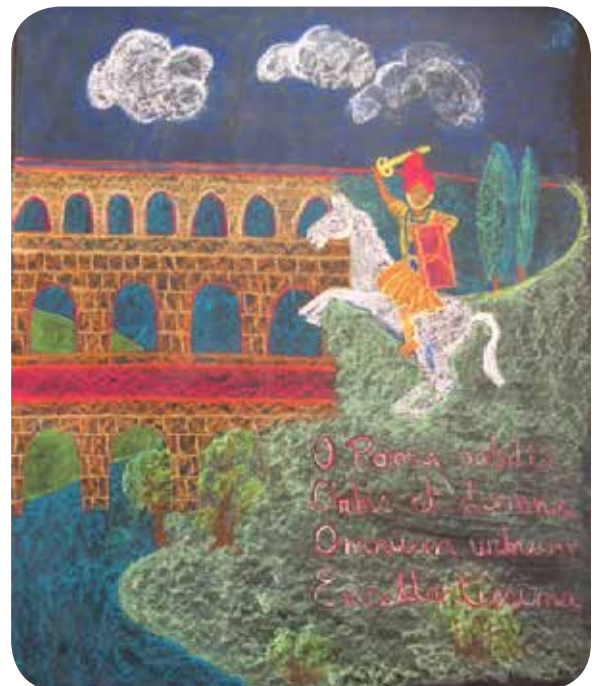
Rome

O Roma Nobilis
Orbis et domina
Omnium urbium,
Excellentissima.
Salutem dicimus
Tibi per omnia;
Te benedicimus,
Salve per saecula.

O noble Rome,
The circle and the mistress.
Of all cities,
Most excellent.
We say greetings
To you among all;
To you we give blessing
Salute throughout the year.

Our fifth and sixth graders have moved from the reassuring certainty of natural phenomena, (physics) to the conflict and power of Rome. These tales of history have amazed and upset us. The growth of Rome continued even through great destruction and loss of life. The battles have been epic, the tales bloody. Our students have been writing from the perspective of others, stepping into these Roman shoes is not easy - we are all glad we are not living in such times!

with warmth, Shannon Herda



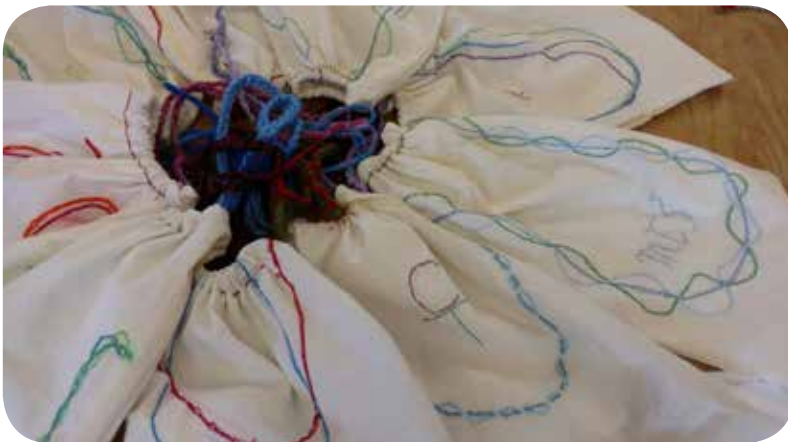
GRADE 7

As the sunlight returns and we start coming out of our winter shells and looking again at the wider world around us, the 7th grade has started examining the deeper ways in which that world works. We just completed our creative writing block, where we explored the ways in which we can describe a world, real or imagined, to someone else, and the deeper meanings that can be contained in simple, everyday sights. We then moved on to the study of physics: looking at those same simple sights we see every day, now not with the eyes of an artist, but with those of a scientist. What is it that puts rainbows on our floor in the afternoon or gives us that deep sense of contentment when our instrument is perfectly in tune? How can we manage to build something as great as the pyramids of the Egyptians or the Olmecs that tower far above our heads with blocks that can weigh more than we do? The eye of the artist has not left, but merely stepped back to allow us not only to look at the beauty of the world around us, but also understand how it works.

As a similar reminder, we also looked back to our snow sculpture: Einstein in Nature. In February, the 7th grade won 1st place in the Middle School/High School division, and a few weeks ago, we were also awarded the People's Choice Award. We are not alone in our quest for the beauty that exists in science and the science that exists in beauty.



HANDWORK



RUSSIAN

Our 1st Graders continue “butterfly” counting 1-100 and learning the Russian alphabet. Grade 2 has been talking about animals, drawing them, and describing them in Russian. Everybody realized how lucky we are to live in Alaska! There are three kinds of bears here and we know how to name them in Russian too. Besides learning animals students practice their play “Teremok” and use puppets or masks while doing it. Grade 3-4 talked about healthy choice of food, their favorite vegetables and fruits while reciting verses about veggies. And now we practice spelling and writing in Russian, everybody is very excited! After finishing our “trip” to Moscow and seeing a lot of sights, and visiting St.Basil’s Cathedral we moved to the next block with Grade 5-6. Older grades started working on their family trees and new vocabulary. They learn about some differences in culture when it comes to names (patronimics), and also about three genders in the Russian grammar. Next step will be to work on the autobiographies. We are very busy!



MOVEMENT



WOOD WORKING



EURYTHMY



You may have noticed by now our new school logo popping up here and there - a natural circle of seed and leaf shapes - and our new tagline: *Awakening Wonder*. Over the twenty-five years of its existence, our school has had various logos representing its identity at its various stages of development. One logo from many years ago had little children coming down from the stars above. The most recent logo prior to our new one was the result of hard work and visioning for our school by a different group of volunteers. Just as humans grow and develop their identity, we felt that our school needed a new image to share with the world to reflect our current stage of development.

These new “branding” images are the result of the work of the AWS Marketing Committee and the input of many community members over the course of a year. David Taylor, parent of two AWS students and owner of the media agency, Element Agency, facilitated the journey toward this new incarnation of our school’s identity. Other members of the committee were Wendy Turner, - chair, Diane VanDommelen - faculty rep, Annette Marley, - board member, Rob German, Vanessa Keck, Amy Meissner, - facebook, Michele Keck and Dean Barnes.

After a series of community forums with the board, faculty, and parents at the school, two basic themes arose that seemed central to our identity—spirit and nature. David took these themes and infused them into a couple of different images. The marketing committee, board, and faculty provided feedback. During this process, Matt Unterberger, our AWS second grade teacher who also designed the former logo, woke up in the middle of the night, penciled a sketch of a new design, and provided it to David. Then marketing committee members settled in a surprisingly consensual and intuitive way on the final image. Finally, a small subcommittee convened at one member’s dining room table and a tagline was born, the final version of which can be credited to Diane VanDommelin: *Awakening Wonder*. One more difference to be noted in our remodeled image is the fact that we are now “The” Anchorage Waldorf School, distinguishing us as the only independent Waldorf school in the area.

Many in the community received an introduction to the new logo and tagline at an unveiling at this year’s spring gala. Over time, everyone will bring their own personal meaning to this new image and tagline. Now it will take on a life of its own, both inside and outside our community.

Annette Marley
marketing committee member



The Anchorage
Waldorf
School

Awakening Wonder