

May 2017

Awaken Wonder in Joy



The Anchorage
Waldorf School
Awakening Wonder

Fiddleheads Nursery

In the heart of a seed buried deep, so deep a dear little plant lay fast asleep .

“Wake!” said the sun and creep to the light .

“Wake!” said the voice of the raindrops bright.

So the little plant heard, and rose up to see a beautiful sun filled world with you and me .

I have loved spending a year tending tiny seeds and watching them slowly awaken in wonder. Thank you to this sweet community for all of the precious love and tender care. And may we continue to hold each other in love and light, no matter how near or far, young or old. Blessings on our journeys!

Ms. Ashley

Sunflower Kindergarten

In the heart of a seed,
Buried deep, so deep,
A dear little plant
Lay fast asleep.

'Wake,' said the sunshine,
'And creep to the light.'
'Wake,' said the voice,
Of the rain-drops bright.

The little plant heard,
And it rose to see
What the wonderful,
Outside world might be.



The image of the seed is such a beautiful analogy to our dear children and their journey to becoming their true selves. I am filled with wonder every day watching the little beings I am so blessed to serve blossom before my very eyes! And with this image comes the great responsibility we all carry to provide them with the richest and purest soil to grow from, the beautiful sunlight to warm them and give them confidence to grow strong and true, the challenge of the rain and wind to give them the confidence and joy of triumphing over any trial. I am honored to tend to my little garden of Sunflowers and watch them reach for the wondrous light within themselves.

I am so blessed to be surrounded by wonderful children every day, who bring smiles to my heart and joy to my soul. I am thankful for the amazing parents who support my class and the school in so many ways, giving of themselves selflessly. I am honored to work with a group of colleagues that share their wisdom and inspiration so generously. I am humbled by the work of our administrative team and board that work tirelessly so that I may focus on my class knowing that all is being taken care of with great heart.

Blessings on your summer, may it be a time of renewal and joy, the wonder of light and growth that is an Alaskan summer! See you in the fall!

Miss Susan

Pussywillow Kindergarten

Little Ships

Our school year is nearly over. The sails are raised and set. The hulls are sound. The little ships pull at their ropes, impatient to begin their journeys. Oh, that we could ensure them safe-sailing! That we could command the storms and clouds to keep their distance, the waves to be gentle. That we knew with a certainty that the eager little vessels would sail always in a "blue sky world".

But we can't.

We can help them build their hulls with whole and healthy foods, peaceful rest, imaginative exercise in the fresh air. We can help sew their sails, putting kindness, love, care and compassion into every stitch. We can provide maps, with beautifully drawn boundaries around the lands of manners and self-control. We can hide a treasure chest filled with fairytales in the hold.

And when the great day comes, with brave smiles and secret tears, we will stand on the shore and wave, knowing that whatever befalls the little ships on the sea of life, we have tried our best.

And that is what we can do!

Dear God,

Be good to me.

The sea is so wide,

And my boat is so small.

Love,

Miss Diane

First Grade

As the school year soon comes to an end, I reflect on what a wonderful year we have had in First Grade. The children have gone through remarkable changes in this short period of time. They began the year filled with anticipation and an eagerness for learning. They exhibited an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm. Our first months were spent learning how to work together in a classroom. The idea of sitting in desks and facing the blackboard was completely new to them. They learned how to raise their hand to speak, how to stay seated during the lesson and steadily work, and how to organize and care for their materials. Much more than academics were learned this year as we formed ourselves into a cohesive, hard working class. By the end of the year, the children have socially and academically matured. We will end our year presenting a class play to the First Grade parents called, "The Selfish Giant." It was a pleasure to teach this amazing group of children this year. I look forward to maintaining my relationship with the children and I truly appreciate all of the support the First Grade parents provided to make this class thrive in all ways.



Spring greetings from Grade 2!

It has been a lovely spring with lots of activity in and out of the classroom!

“A swallow sang upon his perch,
Glued, Gluee, Gluee.

A wonder of all wandering, the wonder of the sea.
The wonder of the sea!”

The birds have been singing and the flowers are starting to bloom. We helped grow some dahlias, marigolds, poppies, sunflowers, and pansies, with guidance from Mr. Wood.

Our class, with help from Mrs. Herda, also rescued a young Pine Siskin out of the playground area, and the Bird TLC came back to reintroduce the bird to our campus after a week of rehabilitation. Great job young animal care givers!

All year we have enjoyed our school's Oma read to us during work time. She had been reading a classic book called “Momo” to us. Torin Finder mentioned this wonderful story in his lecture about time. He was very pleased to hear that we were sharing this magical story.

The students have been singing and dancing and playing music together this past few weeks in our culminating class play- the King of Ireland's Son - Act I. They have also made some costumes for the play with plaster mask project. These students are very focused and talented when it comes to their crafting!

It has been a wonderful school year and what I have enjoyed most was seeing the students grow tremendously in their language arts and math skills, as well as their artistic endeavours. As the breathing out of summer approaches we are also reflecting on the year while looking and appreciating the time we had. We look ahead and honor the change, we are excited for our friends who will be moving to other lands and experiencing new joys, but sad too of the thought of them away, so we enjoy the moments we have.

We wish everyone a magical summer of light and warmth!



Grade 3/4

We are ending our year with the excitement and tragedy that comes with Alaska's journey to statehood. We have heard about the excitement of the European voyages and have caught gold fever. We've also learned that with each of those events there was also a tragic side, like the near extinction of sea otters or fur seals for profit.



Grade 5/6

The end of the year is nigh - class 5/6 is ending with a deeper exploration of the world around them and a focus on Geology. We were able to visit Petersen Bay Field Station this last weekend as a class and immerse ourselves in environmental studies. It was a glorious experience with students and parents enjoying a wide variety of shared experiences. Students are also preparing for their pentathlon and enjoying some musical experiences with Yngvil Vatn Guttu who is visiting our campus April 28th, May 12th and May 13th for May Faire. You will also have an opportunity to hear their growing skills in Orchestra in the coming weeks - an evening concert is planned for Tuesday May 9th.

In the Mountains by E. Schwartz

Though dark the night, we move in light
Amidst the radiant mountain peaks;
Earth's crystal gaze, subdued by day,
At night reflecting starlight seeks.
This rock kingdom, seemingly dumb,
To wakeful ears is sounding;
Each crag to each thunderously speaks,
'Gainst vales each voice rebounding.
In limestone's chill and crystal's fire
The mountains brood o'er their abyss;

Intone in adamantine choir
Mysteries of their genesis.
The rocks, roused from long epochs' sleep,
Riddles solve of Space and Time,
While metals, gleaming in the deeps,
Harmoniously chime.

O seeker, slumbering in the haze,
Awaken with the stones!
Find crystal's flame within your gaze,
Lime's might in blood and bone.

with warmth, Shannon Herda



Grade 7

7th grade has been a year of deep exploration and discovery. Like Galileo, we have spent much of our time looking at seemingly ordinary everyday things and occurrences and pondering what is really happening. We all know that the string on a violin vibrates when you play it, and that there is a very specific place to put your finger so that your note is in tune, but why do these things occur? We know that the Renaissance produced a great flourishing of arts and sciences, but what was the cause of these advances, and what was really happening behind the scenes of some of the greatest masterpieces in history. With this pervading sense of discovery, it is fitting in a way that our last block looks at the "discovery" of the New World by the Old. Two very different cultures met at this time, and offered each the chance to learn something more of the world and of themselves. Whether or not they took this opportunity for what it was depended greatly upon the person doing the choosing.

The world is all around us, and everything we could ever want to know about it is there for us to see, but in order to do so, we have to be willing to leave behind our old world of things we think we know, and sail out into the uncharted waters of the things we could know. This is a frightening resolution to undertake, but if we are willing to go in search a new world with a sense of wonder for the possibilities it can hold, we might find that the old world rings all the truer for it.



Woodworking with Grade 5/6 & 7



Russian

Spring is always busy. First we say good-bye to winter and celebrate Maslenitsa by making blini (pancakes). Then we learn new verses and words to greet spring. Easter comes and we talk about Russian Easter traditions and play very popular “egg-on-a- wooden-spoon” race when everybody gets “eggcited”. In the middle of spring students start practicing their plays, skits, verses and songs they are going to perform during April Assembly. I am not going to disclose a secret by telling what our grades are going to do. Children have worked very hard getting ready and it will be very interesting to see in action. Our 1st Grade is going to sing two songs and accompany one of them with the xylophones. They also wished to teach our guests to count to 100. I tried to talk them into reducing the numbers to 10. It was not easy! Grade 2 is eager to perform their “Teremok” play with hand-made masks and houses. Grade 3-4 will be introducing their “garden” with lots of vegetables and beautiful drawings. Grade 5-6 chose to do a puppet show based on a Russian tale “Kolobok”. They thought it would be interesting for younger grades to watch. And Grade 7 will bring Alexandr Pushkin to the assembly and introduce everybody to one of his famous beautiful poems. Hope you’ll enjoy it!



Handwork

Our days are happy and busy with wonderful work, as the light of Spring returns to the handwork room and leads us to Summer!

Grade 1 knitting is flowing with the creation of a beautiful, striped flute bag. Work is being completed and enthusiasm abounds!

Grade 2 are continuing work to finish their knitted animals. They are exploring patterns and three dimensional form. A variety of animal friends are coming to be.

Grade 3/4 students are working hard to complete the challenging project of stitching their handwork bag. This involves embroidery and hand sewing skills and weeks of focus!

Grade 5/6 are learning new knitting skills and creating wonderful work. Slippers and socks are emerging with enthusiasm! We, also, are working hard to make sure, not just one, but a matching pair is completed!

There has been much Handwork happiness on the hill!

I would like to thank everyone in our community for the privilege of teaching your children over the past two years. It is challenging to leave this wonderful job, school community and state. I am grateful for every day I have shared with you and your beautiful children.

I wish each of you all the best and I will continue to send many blessings in your northerly direction!

With love - Caitlin

May Faire 2017





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