



The Anchorage
Waldorf
School

Awakening Wonder

NURTURE

INSPIRE

EMPOWER

Waldorf Weekly

Do you have ideas you would like to see added, or contacts that should be on the list?
Please let us know and we will work on making our newsletter the best it can be.



Annual Giving Update!

This year's Annual Giving celebrates our Specialty Classes and their gifts to our students and community.

- Movement
- Eurythmy
- Russian
- Woodwork
- Handwork
- Orchestra/Strings

We are currently at \$28,420!

Plus a very generous \$4,000 corporate pledge

With up to \$10,000 in matching donations until the end of the year!

Congratulations to Kindergarten, 1st and 8th grade who all reached 100% participation! Way to go!

There is still time to donate and now is a great time because all donations will be matched up to \$10,000! We are closed for Christmas break but please feel free to use the "donate Now" button below and we are always accepting donations by mail as well.

[**Click Here to Donate Now**](#)

Gift of Time

I was fortunate to have a mother who, for Christmas, knitted all of her children and grandchildren a new pair of mittens or socks: nearly 100 individual mittens or socks every year! She could be seen knitting for months ahead of Christmas day. This has now become tradition for me and my own daughters, as we knit throughout the holiday season. We relish being given good reason to relax, and to fashion something warm.

When the winter sun's warmth is lacking, we humans speed up our movement, creating our own, inner heat. During the holidays, our pace quickens. No sooner have we finished Thanksgiving dinner than we find ourselves compiling lists for gift-giving. We are driven by numbers: the countdown to Chanukah or Christmas, the number of rehearsals left until a holiday performance, the tally of goods to bake, the deadline by which packages must be mailed, the dates of parties, the budget allotted for gifts, and the time we are to check in for holiday travel. The nearer we get to Christmas day, it seems, the greater the stress we feel. At the time of year when family is paramount to all other relationships, we are often so caught up in a whirlwind of activity, that we become least available to those we love.

My oldest brother, in an effort to regain quality time and render the holidays more meaningful, one year declared a non-commercial Christmas for his family. The only purchases to be made, he decreed, were those for raw materials required in fashioning a gift. Then he, his wife, and three children drew the

name of the one and only family member for whom each would make a gift. All of them devoted such time and attention to their endeavors that their creations became family treasures: a hand knit sweater, a leather tool pouch, a coffee table. Quality replaced quantity, and their holidays were marked by a heightened sense of anticipation, relaxation, and love.

When reflecting on our most cherished memories, aren't they all related to time? The time we did this or that...the time we shared with a loved one...when we had a wonderful time with friends or family. How can we harness time to regain a sense of balance during the holiday season? Instead of spending cash, investing in the financial side of Christmas, we can dedicate our efforts to spending *time*, paying the most attention to our families. Our most deeply rooted traditions probably center around this time of year. Since we are entirely free to create the rituals that hold the most meaning for us, we can begin to choose time-honoring traditions.

As children, members from my family of origin were handed out gifts from beneath the tree and, after a flurry of torn wrapping paper, we had simultaneously diminished the pile of presents--in minutes. Weeks and weeks of anticipation ended in a flash. Little, if any, time was taken to savor the gift, let alone the moment. This is a family tradition that ended with me.

With my own children, opening presents typically lasts until after supper. We all look on as each family member opens a gift. If it is a game, we often decide to play it right then and there. We take frequent breaks during the opening of gifts to eat, or assemble pieces in a new jigsaw puzzle, or take a long walk, donning a new article of clothing. The true gift of the season is holding a space to be completely present and to treasure each other's company.

Children crave parents' full attention. They long to hear stories: funny stories about relatives, stories about their own births, stories that begin with "I remember when...". Memories are forged by what we do with our children and the traditions we build. Childhood is the only time in our lives that we are free of obligations. By giving our children days devoid of hustle and bustle, free from media or electronics--by allowing our children time in the quiet of nature, to enjoy a warm drink inside a snow fort—we give ourselves the same gifts. Enjoy the peace and stillness of the winter season. Let winter's snow and ice serve as messengers, asking us to slow down and heighten our senses. Abundantly, we can give to both ourselves and our children a gift that can never be bought, but can always be made: the gift of time.

Joyous, time-honored holidays to one and all!

~Donna Levesque

Starting Jan 7, 2020

TUESDAY TEA: A WALDORF CLASS FOR PARENTS

Parents who wish they could have gone to a Waldorf school can join me each Tuesday morning after drop-off for an hour of tea, activities, and a study to answer the whys of Waldorf education. Class begins January 7th.

What: Waldorf Education for Parents

Where: In the Hall

When: Tuesdays, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

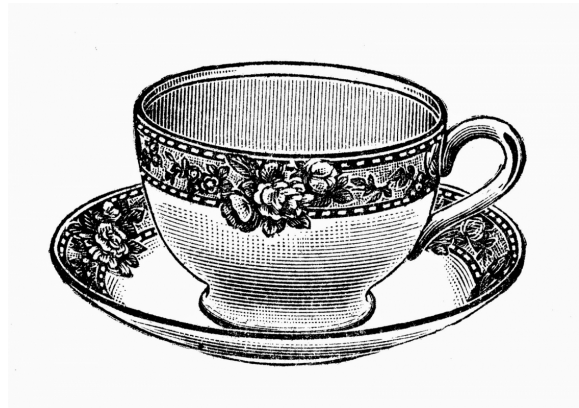
Who: Donna Levesque

Occasionally, the class will meet in the Handwork room so that Craft Guild members can also participate. RSVP by Jan. 6th so that I can have enough supplies on hand.

Warmly,

Donna

Parent Class Teacher





On behalf of all of us at Anchorage Waldorf School I would like to wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season. May the spirit of peace, tolerance, and celebration fill your homes during this time and throughout the coming year. Thank you for all of the continued support and love you have shown our school.

Happy Holidays,

Stephanie Smith

Executive Director



Helping Hand

Help us reconnect with our community members. We need someone to sort our records and call old contacts as we build a centralized

database. Email Tasha at outreach@waldorf.org for more info. Please note that due to the nature of this project, we will require a background check and signed confidentiality agreement. Let's build our community together.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec 19-Jan 3: Winter Break
- Jan 7: Tuesday Tea @ 8:30
- Jan 11: Alumni Panel Lunch
- Jan 20: MLK day No School
- Jan 31: Assembly 11:30, 12:30 Dismissal
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QUESTIONS?

Give Us A Shout!

[CONTACT](#)



Anchorage Waldorf School

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